

# Georgia Military College Celebrates Its 135<sup>th</sup> Birthday

(Milledgeville, Ga)-Georgia Military College (GMC) will celebrate its 135<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Tuesday, October 14. The community is invited to join in the festivities commemorating over one-hundred years of excellence in education.

GMC was established in 1879 by act of the Georgia General Assembly (GGA) and was originally called Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College. In 1900, the name of the school was changed to Georgia Military College.

The Old Capitol Building, then as now, is the main college facility and sits on the highest point within the Milledgeville city limits. In 1880, the school's first session opened with 219 male and female students. Doctor W. M. Dudley, the school's first president, guided this class.

In 1950, the War Department designated GMC a "Military Junior College." Today, GMC is one of only five United States Military Junior Colleges and has been designated by the GGA as The Military Junior College of Georgia.

GMC is the alma mater to many distinguished graduates including: actor, Oliver Hardy; aviation pioneer, Bert Atkinson; pioneering pediatric surgeon, Dr. Alfred Blalock; Secretary of Labor, William Usery; football coach, Bill R. Yoast; and Georgia Governor, George Busbee.

For over a century, graduates have fought in world conflicts including the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the Iraqi War and the Afghanistan Conflict. Ten alumni gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Today, in keeping with its founding principles, GMC-a liberal arts junior college-strives to reduce barriers to higher education. The school strives to make it easier for students with modest means to earn a college degree, and to evolve a curriculum to meet an array of personal, economic, and societal needs.

GMC President, Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, believes the accessibility of open enrollment is essential to the school's continued success. "We give everyone an opportunity to

get an outstanding education here, including nontraditional students," says Caldwell.

Since being established in 1879, Georgia Military College has remained committed to a fundamental value: belief in the importance of every person and full development of the talents of every American citizen. Every student learns that "Character" is paramount and "Duty, Honor, and Country" are values worth living.

### **135<sup>th</sup> Birthday Schedule of Events**

11:45 Welcome by Colonel Ralph Kauzlarich, Executive Director of the Milledgeville Campus

Comments by LtGen William B. Caldwell, IV, President of Georgia Military College

Proclamation by Mayor Richard Bentley, GMC alumnus

Comments by COL Charles Ennis, one of GMC's oldest alumni

12:00 Cake cutting and balloon release

12:15 Conclusion