



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vet's journey to NWACC long & winding/page 4

NorthWest Arkansas Community College

THE WEEKLY INSIDER

February 25-29, 2008



UNVEILING A COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS

NWACC Foundation unveils George Westmoreland Veterans Affairs Office

George Westmoreland spends a great deal of time advocating for veterans, active duty soldiers and their families on the national level. Thanks to his generosity and compassion for veterans, NWACC will be better positioned in the future to advocate for services to veterans on the local level in The George Westmoreland Veterans Affairs Office.

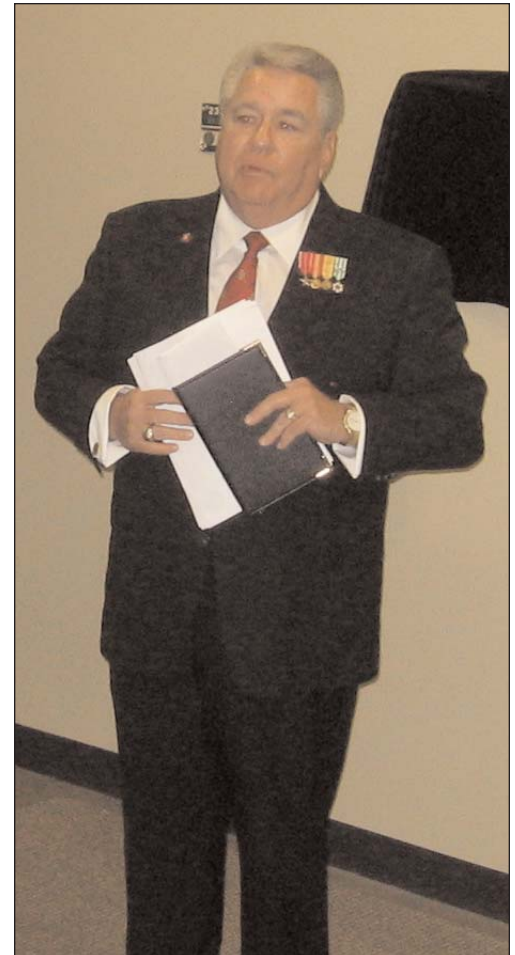
The NWACC Foundation on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, unveiled at a 10 a.m. announcement The George Westmoreland Veterans Affairs Office.

Westmoreland serves as Arkansas' Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. In that capacity, he connects the Department of the Army with communities across Arkansas.

Westmoreland also is a long-time supporter of NWACC.

In April 2003, a criminal justice lecture auditorium (Burns Hall 1434) was named in appreciation for his strong and continued support of NWACC through the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP).

Before that, Westmoreland established in honor of Bill Schwyhart and the late **CONTINUED on Page 2**



Westmoreland poses with reservists and with Steve Gray, a retired Air Force colonel and military affairs adviser to 3rd District Rep. John Boozman.

WESTMORELAND**Continued from Page 1**

James T. "Red" Hudson a scholarship endowment that benefits business students.

"I wanted to do something for the school in their names," he said of the endowment, which enables two business students each year to attend NWACC.

"I'm proud of what NWACC's been able to do for our citizens," he said. "I'm excited about the potential of the Veterans Affairs Office."

The Westmoreland Office of Veteran's Affairs will better position NWACC to process veteran education benefit applications and changes, verify course enrollments, coordinate courses of study with academic advisors and maintain student records. It will provide information on scholarships and other benefits for soldiers and their families.

"Our aim is to ensure that all veterans at NWACC are receiving all benefits entitled to them," said Dr. Michael Kirk, Dean of the Learner Development Center. "We will provide veterans an atmosphere of great fellowship for like-minded individuals and assist in any way in helping veterans realize their full potential in the academic, workplace and in their social circles."

The Office is located in the heart of the NWACC Advising Center on the second floor of the Student Center.

Westmoreland was named a year ago

About The Weekly Insider

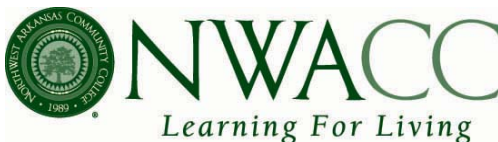
The Weekly Insider is produced for the internal College Community and for those interested in the College by the NWACC Public Relations Department. Email items for publication to jhall@nwacc.edu.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES:

<http://www.nwacc.edu/presidentsoffice/PublicRelations.php>

STAY CURRENT DAILY:

http://www.nwacc.edu/presidentsoffice/CampusAnnouncements_000.php

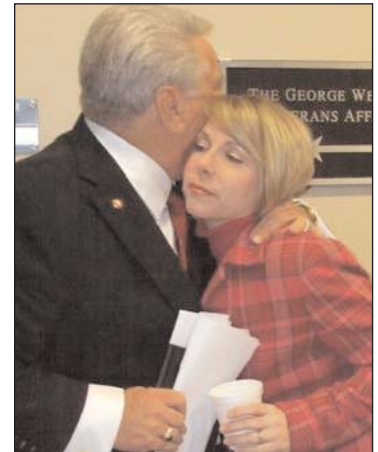


One College Drive

Bentonville, AR 72712 [Exit 86 on I540]

1-479-636-9222 / 1-800-995-6922

NWACC is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Gene Schneider photos.

The announcement of the Westmoreland Veterans Center was made on George's birthday. The NWACC Foundation supplied a cake. Pictured above, George and his wife Cheryl. Right, George gets a hug from his daughter, Kelly Brain.

in March by the Secretary of the Army on the basis of a Congressional nomination Arkansas' Civilian Aide. Aides promote good relations between the Army and public by acting as spokespersons for and advisors directly to the secretary, he said.

Westmoreland was a distinguished military graduate at the University of Arkansas with a degree in banking and finance. He served as a captain in the Army in Germany and Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions in Vietnam. He is proud of his continued affiliation with the military, supporting veterans, National Guard, reserves, active duty soldiers and their families.

Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army were first formally recognized in 1922 and have since become a vital part of the Army. "They bring to Americans an understanding of the values of the Army and the sacrifices that soldiers and their families make," Westmoreland said.

As protocol dictates, Civilian Aides serve as Three Star Generals.

Civilian aides are appointed for each state. They are actively involved in their communities and are usually business or civic leaders who bring to their position an interest in the Army. Once appointed, they serve a two-year term without compensation. To date, more than 500 aides have served the Army.

Westmoreland, a native Arkansan from Hot Springs, retired as Senior Vice President of Merrill Lynch & Company,



Dick Trammel introduces the guest of honor, George Westmoreland.

Inc. of Rogers, after a 25-year career.

He has been active in the Rogers and northwest Arkansas community, having served as chairman of the Rogers United Fund, Rogers Planning Commission, Rogers Airport Commission and on the boards of the Arkansas Air Museum, St. Mary's Hospital Foundation Board, the State of Arkansas Library Commission, Central United Methodist Church Board and first Chairman of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport.

He currently serves on the Board of Advisors at the Walton School of Business at the University of Arkansas and the board of the Walton Arts Center Foundation.

New Veterans Center Dedicated

Community College Office Honors Local Advocate



Gene Schneider photograph

L-R, Rogers Mayor Steve Womack, NWACC Foundation Director Craig Hull and Bentonville Mayor Bob McCaslin talk as the honor guard assembles.

Thursday, February 28, 2008

By Dan Craft

THE MORNING NEWS

BENTONVILLE - George Westmoreland remembers being snubbed by an airline stewardess as he tried to get home from Vietnam.

"She asked if I was in California on business, but when I told her I was an Army captain just back from the jungle, she said 'Oh, but you looked so normal,' then got up and walked away," Westmoreland said. "I decided right then that veterans ought to be treated better than that."

Nearly four decades later, his efforts on behalf of veterans were recognized Thursday. The new veterans affairs center at NorthWest Arkansas Community College bears Westmoreland's name.

The center will help guide a younger generation of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan through college, gaining skills they'll need in a civilian business

world, said Westmoreland, 70, a long-time Rogers resident.

"These men and women have the steel, the character that's forged in the service," Westmoreland said. "This will give them the opportunity to pair that with the skills they'll need once their service is up."

The college counts about 200 veterans among 7,000 students, said Jim Hall, vice president for public relations for the college. The center will help them apply for benefits, manage their education plans and network with other veterans in the job search, Hall said.

Veterans adjusting to civilian life is a major challenge for the military, said Steve Gray, a retired Air Force colonel and military affairs adviser to 3rd District Rep. John Boozman, R-Rogers.

"This can't be done by the military or the VA alone," Gray said. "The military does a good job turning civilians into soldiers, but lags sometimes turning sol-

diers back into civilians."

The transition is also complicated by National Guard and Reserve forces playing a large role in ongoing conflicts, said Steve Womack, Rogers mayor and a colonel in the Arkansas National Guard.

"This fight is touching more places in America than anything in the last 30 years or more," Womack said. "The Veterans Affairs arena is a lot more complicated now than it was when its main goal was helping the relatively small number of active duty troops who were getting out of the military."

More soldiers are also taking advantage of benefits such as educational funding, Gray said.

"More and more of these guys aren't coming back from combat and going right into the workforce like they used to," Gray said. "More and more of them are looking at the benefits available and deciding to go back to school."

John Snyder did just that.

"Having a place on campus to bring my questions will help a bunch," said Snyder, a Marine Corps reservist and business management major. "The process isn't terribly hard, but there are always some minor questions that pop up from time to time, and this will make the answers available even between classes."

The center provides an educational component that complements general veterans services offices in Washington and Benton counties, as well as the Veterans Affairs hospital and nursing home in Fayetteville that specialize in health services, Gray said.

After serving in Germany and Vietnam - where he earned The Bronze Star - Westmoreland spent 25 years with the Merrill Lynch affiliate in Rogers, retiring as senior vice president.

He also serves as the civilian aide to the Army for Arkansas. Civilian aides from each state are named by the Secretary of the Army, and spend two years promoting relations between the Army and the public.

Copyright © The Morning News

Morning News Fast Facts

George Westmoreland
Veterans Affairs Center

What: A new office to help veterans who enroll at NorthWest Arkansas

Community College apply for aid, choose classes and find employment.

Why: A new generation of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are enrolling in col-

lege once their military service ends.

Where: The new office is inside the Advising Center, on the second floor of the Student Center.

NWACC names veterans office for Westmoreland

By Jamie Brunk

Daily Record Staff Writer

Friday, February 29, 2008

BENTONVILLE — When George Westmoreland was serving overseas during the Vietnam War, he befriended a little boy who lost his feet to a land mine.

The child was happy despite his circumstances, and from that, Westmoreland gained a lesson he's never forgotten — to never bemoan his circumstances and to seize life's opportunities. He now encourages other members of the armed forces to remember the same lesson.

Westmoreland's name is now on the office at Northwest Arkansas Community College that helps veterans and their dependents obtain those opportunities at the college. The NWACC Foundation unveiled the George Westmoreland Office of Veterans Affairs in a ceremony Thursday morning.

The office will better position NWACC to process veterans education benefit applications and changes, verify course enrollments, coordinate courses of study with academic advisers and maintain student records, said Jim Hall, NWACC executive director of public relations. The office will provide information on scholarships and other benefits for military personnel and their families.

"Our aim is to ensure that all veterans at NWACC are receiving all benefits entitled to them," said Mike Kirk, dean of the Learner Development Center. "We will provide veterans an atmosphere of great fellowship for like-minded individuals and assist in any way in helping veterans realize their full potential in the academic, workplace and in their social circles."

Westmoreland told another story during the unveiling ceremony. It was after 11 one night when he was headed home from his tour of duty in Vietnam. He processed out of the service in California, which is where he got on a plane to head home. It was on that flight that a stewardess made a strange comment to him that made him decide right then and there to do what he could to help other people who had served in the military to be successful.



Gene Schneider photo

John Snyder (left): "NWACC is one of the best things that ever happened to me."

"I decided to make a difference for those who served," he said.

He has spent many years since then working to help veterans in various ways. His latest service to veterans has gained him recognition at a national level. Westmoreland was named a year ago in March by the secretary of the Army on the basis of a congressional nomination to be an Arkansas civilian aide. Aides promote good relations between the Army and the public by acting as spokesmen for and advisers directly to the secretary, he said.

John Snyder, who also attended the unveiling ceremony for the office, was pleased to do so. He served in the U. S. Marine Reserves from 1982 to 1986 and is now a business-management major.

"NWACC is one of the best things that ever happened to me," he said. "(This office) gives veterans the opportunity to find out what they can do (with their academic careers)."

With the War on Terror still ongoing, there is more of a need than ever for these types of services, Rogers Mayor Col. Steve Womack said. There are more people than ever coming back from military service, and there are also more people who are living in civilian life but face being called up for active duty, he said.

The college plans to continue adding benefits and services for its veterans, NWACC President Becky Paneitz said.

Vet's journey to NWACC long and winding

Snyder arrived with a dozen others laid off by company

John Snyder spent four years in a U.S. Marine Corps reserve unit at Spokane, Wash. He was a communications specialist for a 198 Howitzer battery.

Snyder, who served his country from 1982-86, spoke about his experiences in the military and extended his appreciation to George Westmoreland at the dedication ceremony.

"I enjoyed my time with the Marine Corp reserves," he said afterward. "It provided me some good leadership opportunities."

He took those qualities with him when he located to Arkansas in 1992 alongside his wife.

A resident of Lincoln, he worked at Superior Industries at Fayetteville for 13 years before he was laid off in 2006.

A retraining program led him and about a dozen fellow workers to NWACC.

"Initially I looked at an online school," Snyder said. "The state workforce department would not pay for it."

His option was NWACC.

"I talked to Dr. (Mike) Kirk and get got the ball rolling," said Snyder, who started in January 2007.

"Once I got the ball rolling I spoke to Stacey and Howie (Marshall, SAAB leaders) and told them what was going on," Snyder said. "When we stated, we were all scared."

Howie Marshall had been with Superior for 20 years; Stacey 7

"We had been in the workforce for so long and none of us had prior college experience whatsoever," said Snyder, 42 years old.

"It was kind of intimidating being in
CONTINUED on Page 5

SNYDER

Continued from Page 4

classrooms with all these young kids. We kind of felt like we had to prove ourselves a little bit more because here's all these kids fresh out of high school. The knowledge is still fresh for them.

"Me, it's been 25-26 years since I was in high school back in Washington."

But the thing he realized was, he had never stopped learning.

"I had a bunch of life experiences with my employer, training for leadership and I did lead – 14 people in my (USMC) communications division."

He started at Superior as a laborer. Within two years he progressed to a team leader and foreman.

"Most people came to me because I was in charge of the lab on the second shift," he said. "Everybody on the second shift normally came to me for answers. If I didn't know the answer I would get the answer."

He said he took numerous OSHA courses at Superior, like 501 and Haz-Mat training. He took Dale Carnegie courses.

"After I got through the initial awe and intimidation of coming to NWACC, I got to know how the instructors were and the faculty," he said. "They're excellent."

He explained that a financial jam in January 2007 almost forced him out the doors here.

"I was told the state would pay for my tuition, books and supplies," he said. "All they were supposed to pay for was tuition and books. I spent about and extra \$150 on supplies, backpack, paper, notebooks, pens."



John Snyder: I was awestruck.

Before the state program decided to reimburse him, NWACC faculty members pitched in and helped him.

"I had three of my instructors who were so concerned say we don't want you to drop school just because of this," Snyder said. "If something doesn't happen, we'll pay for it.' I was just awe struck."

"Seeing that kind of concern for students was awe inspiring. I've seen more of that as I've continued my education here."

He also mentioned the assistance of Dr. Kirk.

"Every time there's an issue here's there the faculty and staff have just been outstanding," he said.

Snyder plans to major in business management and marketing. He plans to transfer after next fall semester, when he graduates.

"I've learned that with all of our manufacturing going overseas the manufacturing industry is saving money by leaps and bounds," he said. "But by going overseas they are not passing any of those savings to the consumers. They're still selling the product and they need people to sell it."



Lynda Lloyd and Pam Nash



Krista Khone represents Trustees



Honor Guard from Bella Vista