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PCC Veterans Day celebration to include flag ceremony, viewing of Angel Fire video

PUEBLO – The community is invited to a special viewing of a video on the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial located in Angel Fire, New Mexico that will be part of the annual Veterans Day Celebration this Tuesday, Nov. 10, at Pueblo Community College. The memorial became the nation's first to honor Vietnam veterans when it was built in 1971.

The traditional honoring of veterans this year follows Congress' approval this summer of an expansion of education benefits to military veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001. The Chapter 33 G.I. Bill benefits program includes tuition benefits, housing stipend and an allowance for books, and it will pay up to four years of college expenses. In addition, eligible veterans may transfer a portion of their education benefits to their spouse, children (until the age of 26), or a combination of both.

Students interested in the new G.I. Bill benefits should fill out an Application for VA Educational Benefits, form 22-1990. The form and more information about the benefits program are available in PCC's Admissions office, which is located on the second floor of the College Center.

PCC's Veterans Day program on Tuesday will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a flag ceremony in the central campus courtyard. Butch Batchelder, a military veteran and the college's Student Employment Advisor, will be the event's master of ceremonies. Among the festivities will be the singing of the National Anthem by PCC student Eun "Mickey" Sin.

At approximately 11 a.m., the event will move indoors for a buffet lunch in PCC's Pueblo Joe's, located in the lower, walk-out level of the College Center. Those planning to attend the luncheon are asked to RSVP at 549-3061. The cost of the lunch to the public is \$6.95. It is free to PCC students and staff who have served in the military.

The showing of the Angel Fire video will take place at noon in the Barbara Fortino Room, located on the second floor of the College Center. It will be hosted by Larry Alvarado, a local Vietnam veterans advocate.

The Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, located in Northern New Mexico, was originally constructed by the family of Dr. Victor Westphall, whose son, David, was killed in a 1968 enemy ambush in Vietnam. It is in Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park, the first major Vietnam memorial in the U.S. and the only state park dedicated exclusively to veterans of the Vietnam War.

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Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence to help its students acquire the 21st Century skills needed to better their lives. An educational and technological leader, PCC fosters economic development and utilizes strong partnerships in the communities it serves through its Pueblo, Fremont and Southwest campuses.