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ROTC Veterans Day Luncheon

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WMU President John M. Dunn
ROTC Veterans Day Luncheon
Nov. 7, 2013

- Good afternoon. It is wonderful to see all the veterans here today and to hear their stories. I know our ROTC cadets look forward to this opportunity every year to both honor your service and hear about your experiences.
- This annual event has become a tradition for vets in SW Michigan and for our Department of Military Science. Those of us fortunate enough to attend as well come away moved by the interactions we've had with you. And we come away inspired with confidence about the future direction of the military as we see these remarkable young people plan and execute this event.
- With us today is Congressman Fred Upton, who has played a special role in helping us serve the veterans who are our students. We have more than 500 student vets on campus--and those are just the ones who have chosen to let us know who they are. We know there are many others.
- Three years ago, Congressman Upton made it possible for WMU and its partner schools Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Kellogg Community College to be the site of Michigan's first VetSuccess On Campus program. That made us one of only 12 such sites in the nation to offer an array of expanded services to make sure our vets success and have their unique needs met. On behalf of our entire campus, thank you, again, Congressman Upton.
- Having expanded resources to serve vets and having dedicated people on campus to work with vets has made all the difference. Earlier this year, the federal government singled out WMU as the only Michigan school to make its list of the nation's colleges and universities that are "leading the way" to foster postsecondary educational

opportunities and dramatically improve employment outcomes for returning service members.

- It's great to receive such accolades, not because it benefits the University, but because it means our students are getting the services they need. They will be able to merge the lessons of leadership they learned in the military with their college degree work, and they'll find outstanding professional and personal success.

- To the vets here today, thank you for your service. We're proud of you. To our ROTC cadets, thank you for your commitment. We'll be watching you with pride.