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Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor

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MICHIGAN NON-PROFIT FIRST AWARDEE

Lansing, MI September 2020 — At the State Capitol the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor (MMVHOH) was presented the first official Michigan Declaration for a nonprofit with a statewide mission by Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R—Clark Lake), Senate District 16 and State Representative Eric Leutheuser, (R-Hillsdale), House District 58. This first of a kind State Declaration (tailored after the Congressional Charter) was signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II, and the two legislators on behalf of their respective chambers.

On hand to receive this recognition was Major General Robert Smith III, U.S. Army (Ret.) the board chairman who reiterated the board's mission to preserve the legacy of Michigan's military veterans and their accomplishments during both peace and times of war. He thanked the legislators for acknowledging the importance of recognizing these special men and women and noted the presence of fellow veterans and board members Roger Yoder, Eric Fretz and Paul Ryan, all Navy veterans.

Smith, "It's especially important that future generations of Michiganders be able to look back and see the contributions of their fellow service men and women in preserving our freedom and/or in making life better for all its citizens."

"The Michigan Declaration was issued to us to carry out this statewide mission," said Roger Yoder, MMVHOH founder, Chief Administrative Officer, and Navy veteran. "We are proud to be the first recipient of this special document charging us with this task."

The mission of this Hall of Honor is to recognize Michigan's most distinguished service members and veterans through an induction ceremony while creating a means and location to inform future generations of our state's military legacy. The intent is to educate our citizens, in particular young people, about the military and civic service of state veterans in order to inspire a sense of pride, patriotism, and civic virtue. This will be accomplished using scholarships, grants, and other means for conducting research and teaching Michigan's military heritage, as well as the importance of military service to citizenship throughout the state.

The 2019 Class included former boxing legend Joe Louis, former businessman Mike Illitch, Sr. and astronaut Jack Lousma, among others. This year's honorees include former Lieutenant Commander Gerald R. Ford Jr., U.S. Navy; Staff Sergeant William G. Milliken, U.S. Army Air Corps; Circuit Court Judge and Major Rosemarie E.

Aquilina, Michigan National Guard (Ret.); and others. Please check the website and Facebook page for a complete list.

For additional information on the MMVHOH, visit <https://www.militaryvethallofhonor.org/> or contact mmvhof@gmail.com.

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Pictures Attached