

# Vets memorial dedication to go national

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

When Oakland County government dedicates its war veterans memorial at high noon on Saturday, May 28, at the county courthouse in Pontiac, public services director Mike Zehnder intends to make the ceremony a national event.

Zehnder, a former Marine, is arranging to have in attendance several professional athletes, military officers on active duty, winners of the medal of honor, a flyover, bands, singers, Boy Scouts and former Marine Oliver North.

The retired lieutenant colonel, who was briefly a national celebrity when he testified in the Reagan Administration's Iran-Contra scandal, is now seeking the Republican nomination for a U.S. Senate seat in Virginia.

Zehnder, who has a tremendous amount of respect for North, said, "I told him I know people who face the state of Virginia when

they pray. That's how much they think of him."

North will arrive at Oakland-Pontiac Airport on Friday, May 27, and be driven to a paid-attendance cocktail reception at the beautiful Hill estate, Zehnder said. The proceeds from the reception will be given to North.

A \$40-per-plate breakfast honoring North and benefitting the campaign fund of Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson will occur 8-10 a.m., Saturday, May 28, at the Troy Marriott Hotel, Zehnder said. Seven-hundred tickets are available.

The monument dedication will proceed at noon with Boy Scouts reciting the pledge of allegiance, the singing of God Bless America and speeches by notables ranging from Vietnam veterans and former president of the United States "Digger" O'Dell to Patterson, North and maybe Gov. John Engler.

Zehnder is working on a military flyover, and has already lined

up a North American B-25 Mitchell twin-engine World War II bomber.

None of the money to pay for this stuff will be paid by county taxpayers, Zehnder said. The Pontiac Veterans of Foreign Wars post is holding a fund-raiser to pay for almost everything.

The \$22,000 monument has been owned by the county since 1987. It was paid for by private donations and sequicentennial matching funds. For years, it sat in a warehouse because no one could figure out where to erect it.

The stainless-steel, 20-foot triangular monument was designed by the late Don Snyder, a Marine veteran of the World War II battles for Saipan and Iwo Jima. Snyder's widow, Jo, is expected to attend the ceremony.

Said Zehnder last September, "We're going to have a dedication that will blow your mind. This will be one hell of a dedication ceremony."



Coming soon: Oliver North is expected to attend the Saturday, May 28, dedication ceremony of Oakland County's new veterans memorial monument.

# Demand for foster families increases

The number of children with special needs in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties who suffer from abuse and neglect is rising to 250 a month. A growing number of these children are infants and toddlers, and, as a result, these children require foster home placement.

Foster families who can provide safety and security for these children are in demand. The foster child who has experienced abuse and neglect is in

need of special understanding from his or her foster family. A foster family who can give love, support and quality care can assist the child in a safe return to his or her birth family.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, now is the time to make a commitment to Michigan's children. Contact Lutheran Social Services at its office at 423-2760, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Cranbrook planetarium launches cosmic schedule

In July, ice chunks of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 will meet a fiery end as they slam into the planet Jupiter at a speed of 125,000 miles per hour.

Updates on this summer's impending collision and a look at the solar eclipse which will be visible from southeast Michigan on May 10, are the highlights of Cranbrook Institute of Science's newest planetarium show, Cosmic Events.

The 30-minute show is recommended for ages five and up and will run from April 1 until June 5. Performances are at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and an evening show at 7:15 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is \$1 per person plus the museum fee of \$5 for adults and \$4 for children (ages 3-17) and senior citizens.

programs offered at Cranbrook between April 1 and June 5 are:

- **Wonderful Rocket**, for ages three and up, is the story about Rodney the Singing Rocket who takes a fanciful tour of the nine planets in our solar system. Performances are 12:30 p.m. Saturdays.
- **In the Digital Mood**, for ages three and up, swings to the beat of Glenn Miller and includes extravagant laser-light images. Performances are every Saturday and Sunday at 2:15 and 3:45 p.m.
- **Evening Laseera**, for ages five and up, is offered every Friday and Saturday night at 8, 9, 10 and 11 p.m., and features the music of U2, The Doors, Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd.

Planetarium shows are \$1 per person, plus museum admission.

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