

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Military reunion set

HARRY P. Millanow, a Farmington Hills resident and president of the 483rd Bomb Group, is hoping to round up some of his former comrades in arms from World War II before the military group's 13th annual reunion Oct. 1-5 in Tampa, Fla.

The 483rd Bomb Group consists of four highly decorated squadrons of World War II B-17 Flying Fortresses. They made up an arm of the 15th Air Force in Italy.

The Company of Military Historians recognized the 483rd this year for its outstanding record of achievements in aerial combat. It was the first WWII combat unit so honored.

The unit also received two Presidential Citations during the war along with several other high military honors. In addition to flying 10-hour missions to Berlin and Poland from airfields deep in Italy and North Africa, the 483rd was also one of the first groups to encounter the German M-262 jet fighters. One B-17 Flying Fortress had the good fortune to shoot down three on one mission.

Anyone wishing to attend the reunion or needing additional information on the 483rd Bomb Group should contact Millanow at 478-0700.

On advisory group

GARY VEENSTRA, a Farmington Hills businessman, has been selected for an advisory group of policyholders and agents for Citizens Insurance Company of America, one of the largest property and casualty insurers in the state.

Veenstra, president of Veenstra Insurance in Farmington Hills, recently participated in the first meeting of the Citizens' Consumer Advisory Council to inaugurate a formal exchange of ideas and information among company managers, independent agents and customers.

The council was initiated by Jack H. Wintemute, company president, "to explore opportunities to expand customer communication and service," according to a company statement.

The council is composed of six policyholders from different Michigan communities, two independent agents who sell and service Citizens' lines of insurance and five members of the company staff from the headquarters in Howell.

The piece of paper taped to the wall above her desk reads: "Just Do It!"

Appointed by Livonia's Madonna University for a three-year term as the new dean of social sciences, Karen Ross, a Farmington Hills resident, is clearly a woman who takes her own advice.

The "It" on the wall sign actually refers to many things. "It" means meeting the responsibilities of her new post and also those of her position as the chairwoman of Madonna's gerontology department. And "it" means fostering relationships with faculty members in the division she now heads while maintaining that which she believes is critical — contact with students.

"My new position as dean is truly the best of both worlds. I'd like to capture the excitement from teaching and shift it to other areas," said Ross. "I think it's important for us as administrators to know the students — through informal conversations and classroom contact, so that we can see, first-hand, the impact of the decisions we make."

A collective belief in this type of hands-on philosophy is what makes Madonna University a logical choice for so many students, according to Ross.

EARNING HER doctorate of education in human service administration at Wayne State University in 1990, Ross received her master's degree in adult education and certification as a specialist in aging at the University of Michigan.

She completed her undergraduate degree in physical education and recreation at Western Michigan University. She said she believes her experience in the non-traditional discipline of gerontology will lend itself to new insights within her division. Ross holds a strong commitment to the University's mission, and also brings an enthusiasm for progress.

"I would like to create a forum that encourages a healthy exchange of ideas between departments," she said. "That collaboration will make us more knowledgeable about all of the programs, and would

'Just Do It!'

New dean is a go-getter; takes her own advice

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— Karen Ross

benefit both the students and the individual departments."

One of her first major projects as dean of social sciences will be to work closely with the education department to prepare for review by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

She will also facilitate divisional meetings and represent the division on a number of committees, as well as overseeing course enrollments.

ROSS LIVES in Farmington Hills with her restaurateur husband, Richard, and has two teenage stepsons, Eric and Wes. In the rare time she can't be found at Madonna, she is very active in her community.

Head of the Commission on Aging in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area, she is also involved in Project Compassion, and attends a camping trip each summer with Alzheimer's patients. Active in the local political arena, Ross also serves on the city's Year 2000 Committee and co-chairs a human services task force.

"I suppose it's true about busy people always having time to do something else," said Ross. "I don't do anything because I have to. I do it because I love to be involved. I don't even like to close the door to my office because I don't want to miss anything."



Karen Ross: "I don't do anything because I have to. I do it because I love to be involved."

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