

Campus Ceremony Honors Veterans Company Debuts With Impressive 'La Mancha'

BY JENNIFER BURLESON
STAFF WRITER

Those who serve in wars represent all of America and should not be forgotten, said a veteran who was taken prisoner in the Persian Gulf War three years ago.

In a Veterans Day ceremony held in Polk Place on Friday, guest speaker Lt. Col. Thomas Griffith Jr. told of the meaning of war and why veterans were willing to fight.

"In America the people decide when we go to war, thus this day is set aside for all of those who have served," Griffith said. "Veterans don't go to war necessarily for themselves. They represent all of us."

Griffith served as a flight commander, a flight examiner and assistant chief of the Standardization and Evaluation Division. During his third combat mission in the Persian Gulf War, he was shot down and captured.

Griffith discussed his experiences as a prisoner of war.

"I was captured and taken to Baghdad for the rest of the war," Griffith said. "Being a prisoner of war is one of the most difficult ways to serve your country."

"The only thing you are armed with is training, wits and your will to survive. Yet I knew that I would not be forgotten by my country."

His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Prisoner of War Medal.

"To the cadets, I hope you will take your training seriously. From the days the cadets are called to duty, they will serve with me," Griffith said.

Griffith also remembered the 76th anni-



A veteran from the Korean War participates in a ceremony with ROTC candidates Friday to salute a friend who died in action.

versary of the end of World War I.

"On this day in 1918, the guns fell silent in World War I," Griffith said. "The war was long enough to cause the deaths of 50 million American lives."

"It was then called the war to end all wars. We now know that wars have not ended."

Lt. Col. Mark Clodfelter supplied the introduction to Griffith's speech. Clodfelter called Griffith "a true warrior scholar."

Harold Wallace, vice chancellor for University affairs, supplied an invocation to the ceremony.

During his speech, Wallace spoke about the importance of remembering those who had been soldiers.

"We remember those who died in times of relative peace," Wallace said.

"We give honor to people who answered the calls and gave without personal reasons."

Six guest veterans attended the cer-

emony and received special recognition. Each guest represented a war that had been fought and a soldier that had died in the battle.

Every war America has fought in, from WWI to the war in Somalia, was represented.

As each veteran was introduced he or she received a rifle salute. At the end of the row was one empty chair.

This chair was to represent the veterans who are now serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and were unable to attend the ceremony.

Other speakers for the occasion were Cadet Jason Gibson and Professor Richard Kohn.

The ceremony ended with the audience standing together while the American flag was lowered.

After the flag was lowered, members of the armed services joined together and folded the flag.

Although Company Carolina's production of "Man of La Mancha" was performed by students, the musical had a distinctly professional flair. Impressive performances by Max von Essen, Tangena Church and Jeremy Dunn topped the show's list of positive attributes. The musical was performed Thursday through Saturday at Playmakers Theatre.

"Man of La Mancha" is Dale Wasserman's 1963 interpretation of Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote." The play begins when

KELLY BREEN

Theater Review "Man of La Mancha"

Cervantes, played by von Essen, and his manservant, played by Dunn, are thrown into prison and await trial during the Spanish Inquisition.

Their fellow prisoners are immediately hostile and suspicious of them and declare that they will put Miguel and his manservant through their own trial first. Miguel's charges are that he is an "idealist, a bad poet and honest." In his defense, Miguel says that he will put on a play for them and that they can judge his acting and playwriting skills for themselves. Miguel uses all of the prisoners in his play. From here, the plot was a little confusing.

Alonzo Quijana, a country gentleman (Miguel) pretends he is brave knight Don Quixote and consequently goes on worldwide quests in an attempt to spread hope and beauty. His escapades lead him to an inn full of raucous, sexist drunkards. Also in the inn is Aldonza, whom he finds beautiful and charming.

A unique addition to "Man of La Mancha" is that the actors are accompanied by a live orchestra, which remains unseen throughout the production. Heather Savitz did an excellent job on the sound



Pedro (Dusty Stacy) offers Aldonza (Tangena Church) money to have sex with him in an inn full of sexist drunkards in "Man of La Mancha."

design, especially with the loud, booming thunderstorms. Also, the lighting was quite clever. When the background story was being presented there were harsh blue lights, reminding one of their desperate situation (prison) and yellow lights were used when the prisoners were acting in the pretend play. The yellow lighting created a soft, dreamlike atmosphere.

Another highlight of Company Carolina's production was the inclusion of

humor. After being brutally attacked by a mob, Alonzo, Aldonza and the manservant broke away from the mob and landed in a pose like the "Charlie's Angels" silhouette. Dunn as Alonzo's bumbling sidekick also was superb.

"The Impossible Dream," the most well-known song from the musical, gave von Essen the opportunity to let his musical talents shine. Likewise, Church's solos were full of emotion and depth and her voice was strong, bold and well-projected. In addition to the performance, the songs themselves were quite powerful.

Every aspect of "Man of La Mancha" was impressive. Company Carolina's lighting, acting, singing, script, orchestra and stage collectively created an excellent show.

MCAT DAT SPRING 1995

GET RESULTS with the most comprehensive MCAT and DAT preparation in the Triangle or Triad

- ✓ 5-8 students per class
- ✓ 100 hours of live instruction (MCAT); 60 hours (DAT)
- ✓ FREE tutorial help
- ✓ graduate-level instructors with expertise in specific areas

COURSES START IN JANUARY
Chapel Hill, Raleigh & Greensboro

919-929-PREP

SELECT TEST PREP
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INC.

GET SELECTED

SPRING GARDEN

Good Fun,
Better Food,
Best Beer!

RED OAK amber

- unfiltered
- unpasteurized
- slow-cold aged
- preservative free

111 E. Main St
Carrboro • 929-2708

Spring Garden Coupon

Free Soft Drink
with the purchase of a
sandwich or salad

*not valid with daily special
Good November 14-20

**WARNING: Dialing Zero to Call Your Family Collect
Can Be Hazardous to Their Wealth.**

1-800-COLLECT

Dial it instead of "0" and
save them up to 44%.

For long distance calls, Savings based on a 3 min. AT&T operator-dialed interstate call.