

Holyoke Community College honored veterans at campus celebration

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HOLYOKE -- Holyoke Community College recognized Veterans Day with a campus ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 9 in the PeoplesBank Room on the third floor of HCC's Kittredge Center for Business

and Workforce Development.

Liz Golen, the coordinator of Student Activities, delivered opening remarks.

Uniformed members of Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee attended with the honor guard presenting the colors and then filing around a Table of Honor to recognize sol-

diers who are missing in action and never returned home.

They placed hats representing each branch of the military on the plates, raising their glasses in a toast.

The keynote speaker was U.S. Army veteran James K. Bradford of Springfield, a retired police officer, lawyer,

and a two-time graduate of Holyoke Community College from the classes of 1972 and 2022, a 50-year span. He is still attending classes and will earn his degree in visual art in December.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by officers of the HCC Civilian and Military

Organization.

Isabel Vigneault, a business administration major from Belchertown, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Robert Vigneault, HCC's Veteran and Military Services counselor, narrated the MIA/POW Table of Honor ceremony and gave a talk titled "What is Veteran's Day?"

"A great colonel I know told me one of the things about speaking engagements is that you need to engage your audience, and you keep it short," said Vigneault, a U.S. Air Force veteran.

"We're going to do both of those today. So, to engage - everybody who has worn the uniform would you please stand up? We thank you for your service. For those who never wore the uniform, please stand up. Without your support, we couldn't be as successful as we have always been. The success and support of our family and loved ones is what makes us proud to wear the uniform," said Vigneault.

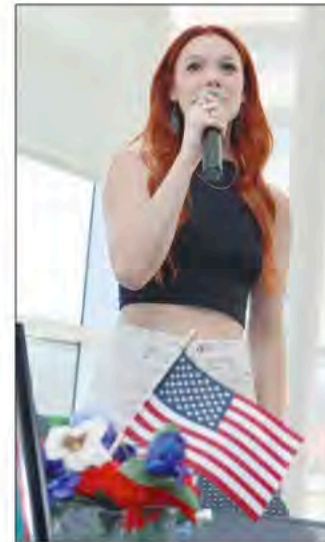
After the ceremony, all par-

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Photo courtesy of Chris Yurko. Uniformed members of Westover Air Reserve Base raise a toast to the men and women who are missing in action or have died during service.

Photos courtesy of Chris Yurko



HCC student Isabel Vigneault from Belchertown sang the Star Spangled Banner.

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Participants and guests were invited to stay for a free lunch.

HCC held the Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 9, because the college is closed on Friday, Nov. 11, for the federal holiday.