

Contact: Amy Lewis, amy@renownmarketing.com
(651) 552-9826

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY PRESENTS FLEMING MEDALS TO ALUMNI VETERANS IN HONOR OF VETERANS' DAY

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Nov. 11, 2009 – In honor of Veterans' Day 2009, Saint Thomas Academy honored four alumni with the Academy's Fleming Alumni Veteran Award yesterday. Among those recognized was 97-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor LTC Ken Deans, U.S. Army (ret.) and a 1930 graduate of Saint Thomas Military Academy. Deans, wearing his Army uniform and sneakers, received his medal surrounded by family members, and Academy cadets, faculty and staff, and fellow alumni and veterans.

"Col. Deans is an incredible inspiration and example to our students and all of us," said LTC Michael DePuglio, U.S. Army (ret.), commandant of cadets at Saint Thomas Academy. "As a JROTC military/leadership Academy, we are proud of our military heritage, the alumni who have served and all veterans. We instill that pride for service and country into each of our cadets through our leadership curriculum and events like our annual Veterans' Day assembly. These young men graduate from the Academy with values, skills and character, much like Col. Deans', to influence our communities and our country."

A Mahtomedi resident today, Deans led an artillery unit in Pearl Harbor and for two years in the South Pacific, where his unit landed and cleared numerous islands. During the remainder of his 27-year military career, he was an artillery instructor, an executive officer in Germany, attended rocketry school, and was a commanding officer of a Corporal Rocket Battalion. He retired from the Army in 1959. He was awarded the American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (German), National Defense Service Medal, WWII Victory medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Three other alumni also received the Fleming medal, including:

- Lt. Col. Jack Clarke, U.S. Army (ret.), STMA '48, a recipient of the Bronze Star and two Silver Stars, who spent his career in infantry, airborne infantry and special forces units in Europe, Korea, Vietnam and Okinawa among other locations.
- Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient 1st Lt. Robert E. Lee, STMA '43, a weapons platoon leader for Company E, 304th Infantry Regiment during WWII, which took and occupied a dozen German towns, and captured over 600 POWs. He was fatally wounded in action on March 1, 1945, at the age of 19.
- Lt. Gen. George Monahan Jr., U.S. Air Force, STMA '49, who worked his way through the ranks to become director of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (aka Star Wars) for the Office of the Secretary of Defense during the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations. A highly decorated Vietnam War fighter pilot, Monahan earned the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal. Monahan passed away in 1993.

Defending Our Freedoms

Keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Dennis Schulstad, U.S. Air Force (ret.) and former Minneapolis City Council Member, impressed upon those in attendance the liberties afforded in the United States because of the service and sacrifice of military personnel.

"We have won the lottery by being a U.S. citizen. Many people (in other countries) would give anything to live in the United States," Schulstad said. "The rights given to us have been fought for

(more)

over the years. We cannot do anything to show our gratitude properly to those who've served and sacrificed. We must thank our veterans, honor them, remember them and appreciate them."

Schulstad reminded the cadets that they have the freedom to choose where to live after graduation, to choose their profession and to choose to worship in a church or synagogue because of the freedom in the U.S. He ended by telling cadets, "We expect you to protect and preserve the freedom of our nation into the future."

About the Fleming Alumni Award

The Fleming Alumni Veteran Award, or the Fleming Medal, is named for Cpt. Richard Fleming '35, recipient of the Medal of Honor and the Academy's highest decorated graduate. Andrew Scheaffer '08 designed the circle-shaped medallion, a melding of the Maltese cross worn on the Cadet Class A lapel with the school crest of a crossed rifle and saber. Four blue stones symbolize the foundational attributes of Saint Thomas Academy. Inscribed on the top of the medal is "PRO DEO et PATRIA" (for God and Country). The Class of 2008 funded the development of the design. The first recipients were James Garberg, STMA '41, and Carl Baumgaertner, STMA '42, awarded in 2008. Garberg holds the nation's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism, and Baumgartner is a Silver Star and three-time Bronze Star recipient.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

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