

Dear Students, Faculty, Alumni and Citizens of Colorado Springs,

Colorado College is always looking forward, but it is worthwhile to look back at where we came from and events that made this college one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges.

In this regard, please join me in honoring a distinguished president, Thurston J. Davies for his unique contribution during World War II, when called to active duty to select one hundred and thirty one colleges and universities to train and educate future Navy and Marine Corps officers for combat duty in World War II.

Colorado College "went to war" 70 years ago when Lieutenant Colonel Davies designated "his college" as one of the 131 colleges and universities for this, and University of Colorado at Boulder. Selecting Colorado College as a V-12 site was a big boost for CC with a dwindling number of male students.

The wartime decline in civilian tuition fees and reduction of income from other sources increased the financial problems of Colorado College. The receipts from the government for the V-12 program for student fees and maintenance, research, and other government projects was a financial blessing. Colleges and universities with military training programs lived off federal funds to train and educate service men besides fielding at certain universities powerhouse football teams.

The leadership of this program was given to President Davies because there was an advantage to placing an educator in charge of this program, and Lieutenant Colonel Thurston J. Davies, who served in the Marine Corps in WWI, wounded twice, decorated for heroism, receiving the Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre was an outstanding choice.

President Davies was an enthusiastic supporter of Colorado College football, and outstanding football players were sent to Colorado College. Davies said, "The quality of a good athlete and a good soldier pretty much parallels each other."

This was reflected in the distinguished service of Colorado College V-12 student, Emery D.H. Friend who received one of our countries highest heroism awards, the Silver Star. David "Chunky" Friend was a tackle on the 1939 championship Denver East High football team, playing for Colorado College in 1941-1942, and Captain of the of the undefeated 1943 Colorado College football team. David Friend received the Silver Star as a platoon leader in a Marine Infantry Battalion on Iwo Jima, March 22, 1945. It read as follows: In the name of the President of the United States, the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, takes pleasure in awarding the SILVER STAR MEDAL to SECOND LIEUTENANT EMERY D. H. FRIEND, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy Japanese forces while serving as a platoon leader in a Marine infantry Battalion on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, on 22 March, 1945. Assigned the hazardous mission of destroying fortified enemy positions, Second Lieutenant FRIEND courageously led a demolition team at night deep into the territory held by the enemy. These enemy positions were holding up the balance of the company of which he was a member and had caused heavy casualties among the constantly exposed to enemy machine gun, rifle and hand grenade fire, Second Lieutenant FRIEND directed the placing of demolition charges and setting them off, destroying twelve enemy emplacements, and then led his men safely back to their own lines. This action enabled his company to advance the following day with light resistance and a minimum of casualties. His inspiring leadership and heroic conduct throughout this extremely difficult period were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval service."

H. M. SMITH
Lieutenant General
U.S. Marine Corps

In the fall of 1943 the roster of schools with Marine/Navy 12 attachments was almost identical to the list of schools with leading football teams including Notre Dame, Michigan, Purdue, Northwestern, Western Michigan, College Pacific and Colorado College.

The war made a big difference on athletics at CC. Juan Reid, coach of Colorado College Conference Champions in 1941 was called to active duty and replaced by Harold White, coach of Salida High School. Colorado College had a competitive 1942 season, but no one could have predicted that CC would field its greatest team ever the next year, when in July 1943 four hundred twenty men showed up on campus as part of the officer training program called "V-12." A recent analysis of the football players who became part of our historic team disclosed that there were players from Stanford and Nebraska, schools that played in the 1942 Rose Bowl game, and Nebraska end Tom Hayes, who went from Colorado College to the West Point Military Academy, playing end for the undefeated Academy teams (1944-45-46). There was a nucleus of outstanding Stanford football players including Harvey Bernhard, Hal Petrich, fullback Willard Sheller (drafted by Washington Redskins), end Robert Hall, drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles and 2nd team All American at Colorado College, the greatest national recognition given a Colorado College football player since Dutch Clark made All-American.

Other outstanding CC V-12 players included Jack Seiferling quarterback from Utah State drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, Lorenzo Howard, Utah State, Grape Bowl

1946, John Ziegler (All American recognition) an outstanding Colorado athlete and Colorado University halfback in 1942 drafted by the Chicago Bears and John McGinn, University of Southern California Rose Bowl team 1944-44; from Brigham Young University, quarterback Glenn Oliverson and fullback Dick Chatterton drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

It's interesting that Colorado College football player Fritz Minuth had been sent to Colorado University by the Navy, and former Colorado University football player Johnny Ziegler had been assigned to CC. Minuth and Ziegler were All-Conference selections for their old schools just the year before. These players plus a nucleus of Colorado College players, William Clark, John Haggin, Herb Vandemoer and Dave Friend from the 1942 team gave Colorado College its greatest football team.." Some football players sent to Colorado College players had V-12 colleges and universities closer than CC, such as College of the Pacific, University of California, University of Southern California, University of Utah and University of Idaho.

The following players were designated starters, playing offense and defense and inducted into CC's Football Hall Of Fame: John Ziegler, Jack Seiferling, Robert Hall, Glenn Oliverson, Dick Chatterton, Thomas Hayes, Reed Nostrum, William Clark, Paul Baker, Herb Vandemoer, Harold Petrich, and Robert Tullis. (All varsity players were inducted into the Hall of Fame.)

The 1943 football team was unstoppable, one of nine undefeated teams in the nation, and rated sixteen out of the country's top twenty teams by the Associated Press, scoring 199 points to the opponents' total of 27, with seven victories including two over the University of Colorado, a powerful V-12 team that lost only two games, both to CC. The team also defeated the 2"Air Force, Kirtland Field and Lowry Field Bombadiers, service teams with professional football players. The Associated Press selected eight Colorado College players on the all Rocky Mountain Conference team. Colorado College received seven invitations to postseason games, but was unable to accept because of wartime travel restrictions.

The Gazette and Telegraph reported on December 1, 1943, "The greatest football team in Colorado College history has done more to put the school and college friends on the gridiron map than anyone since Dutch Clark." Fred Baker, Sports Editor of the Gazette and Telegraph wrote, "This year's team has built up a reputation that is without precedent in the school's history." The Denver Post acclaimed Sports Editor, Jack Carberry, reported on October 1943, "The Colorado College spirit, ability and coaching gives you the best team to come out of Colorado within my memory and I was born here." Colorado Governor John C. Vivian said, "CC is the most frequently invited club in the nation. The entire state is talking about Colorado College..."

Some players represented Colorado College for one or two semesters before being commissioned and sent to the Pacific or European theater. Marines who received their commissions early were in combat on Iwo Jima, included Lieutenant David (Chunky) Friend (Captain CC V-12 football team) who was killed and received the Silver Star for heroism. Although not a member of the Colorado College football team, it is noteworthy that Frank Mitchell, CC V-12 student received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart after leaving Colorado College.

Most football players did not return to Colorado College, returning to colleges or universities previously attended. The graduating class of 1946 was the largest in college history due to returning veterans. President Richard Celeste in 2003 honored the non-returning football players by making them "honorary alumni" and giving team members Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation Speaks...* fitting tribute to the Colorado College team and its outstanding football players of the great generation.

President Davies honored his college by selecting it as a training ground for young Navy/Marine Corps officers, giving Colorado College a football team unparalleled in its sports history. World War II significantly changed Colorado College. President Davies leadership and support of Colorado College in WWII gave a small liberal arts college national recognition.

The person responsible for that change and contribution was Colorado College President Thurston J. Davies. Let us reflect to thank, honor and salute one of our unique and outstanding Colorado College presidents on the 70th anniversary of this significant event.

Lieutenant Colonel Davies returned to Colorado College as President, retiring in 1948, moving to New York where he was associated with Town Hall Inc., New York City and from 1956-59 organized and directed the US participation in the Brussels World Fair. He died at age 67; he is remembered.

Sincerely,

John L. Zorack