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Subject: President, Mayor to Speak at Ceremony to Honor Ferris Founders
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The following is a press release regarding a special wreath-laying ceremony honoring the founders of Ferris State University as part of the 125th anniversary celebration of the University. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Sandy Gholston at (231) 591-2021. Thanks.

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President, Mayor to Speak at Ceremony to Honor Ferris Founders

BIG RAPIDS – Woodbridge Nathan Ferris and Helen Gillespie Ferris, who founded Ferris State University 125 years ago, will be honored during a special wreath-laying ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The laying of the wreath will take place at the Ferris mausoleum at Highland View Cemetery (607 W. Bellevue Street) in Big Rapids at 4 p.m. For Ferris students and anyone else in the community unable to attend the ceremony in the cemetery, the wreath will be on display on the Campus Quad from 1 to 3 p.m. at the WNF statue. As part of this ceremony, remarks will be made by Ferris President David L. Eisler and City of Big Rapids Mayor Mark Warba.

“We’re so pleased to have this tribute to our founders, Woodbridge and Helen Ferris, to set the stage for Founders’ Day activities and to begin the celebration of the 125th year of Ferris State University,” said Jennifer Thede, a member of the History Task Force, which works to commemorate the history and traditions of the University. “We’re also very pleased the Ferris ROTC is going to be participating by laying the wreath as they assisted in January 2003 when we celebrated the 150th birthday of Woodbridge.”

An invocation and a benediction will be given by Jon Fleming and Jerena Keys of the United Church of Big Rapids.

It was 125 years ago that Woodbridge and Helen founded the Big Rapids Industrial School, which we now know as Ferris State University. In 1884, and throughout the early years of the institution, Ferris has been committed to providing a quality, hands-on education; fostering diversity; and embracing inclusion and community. The wreath-laying ceremony and other activities related to Founders’ Day bring into focus the unique legacy Woodbridge and Helen established 125 years ago, according to Thede.

“This is a meaningful ceremony as the Ferris and Big Rapids communities can come together and be a part of the great legacy, which includes diversity and inclusion, started here by Woodbridge and Helen 125 years ago,” Thede said. “This is going to be a great honor also because, in addition to being our founder, Woodbridge Ferris also was a statesman who had an impact that reaches beyond what he did here and started here in Big Rapids with Ferris State University.”



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