

**From:** [Leah D Nixon](#)  
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Included below is a press release regarding Veterans Day at Ferris State University. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Leah Nixon  
Ferris State University  
Assistant Director of News Services  
[leahnixon@ferris.edu](mailto:leahnixon@ferris.edu), (231) 591-5604

### **Ferris Hosts Breakfast Honoring Veterans**

BIG RAPIDS – Veterans Day on Nov. 11 is a time to honor the men and women who have served the United States as part of the armed forces. To recognize the service of the more than 200 students who are active duty personnel or veterans, as well as faculty and staff, the Office of the President is hosting the third annual Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the Rankin Student Center Dome Room.

All veterans, including current military staff in Big Rapids along with the Ferris campus community, are invited to attend the free breakfast.

Breakfast coordinator and Ferris Associate Director of Admissions Troy Tissue said the breakfast is a way for the university to thank the men and women who have given time to serve their country. Tissue and his wife, Dorothy, are both retired Navy, and Dorothy currently serves in the Army National Guard.

Hudsonville brothers Jon and Shawn Sells agree that Veterans Day is a great way to honor service men and women. “It is important to celebrate Veterans Day because a lot of people do not understand the costs associated with freedom,” Shawn, a 20-year-old second-year student said. “People do not think about the sacrifices people make for freedom.”

Eighteen-year-old freshman Jon noted, “A lot of people are volunteering to fight for our freedom, and when people take a moment to appreciate what we do it means a lot to the soldiers.”

The young men are members of the university’s ROTC program, along with their brother, Jack. Ferris’ Army ROTC program teaches students leadership skills and provides opportunities to earn a commission as Army Second Lieutenant.

Ferris also offers the Military Veterans Scholarship. The program provides a \$1,000 annual scholarship and waives out-of-state tuition fees for qualified veterans enrolling at Ferris. Veterans entering school in either freshman or transfer status are eligible for the scholarship, while veterans currently enrolled who meet the requirements were offered the scholarship effective Winter Semester 2006.

The scholarship is renewable for three additional years and the out-of-state tuition waiver

continues as long as the veteran-student meets the program requirements. To receive the scholarship, veterans must have served a minimum of six consecutive months, or 180 days, on active duty status in the U.S. Military within the last four years previous to their enrollment at Ferris.

Student-veterans also must maintain full-time academic status and be in good academic standing to receive the scholarship.

Originating as Armistice Day in 1919 after World War I, the original concept has been modified to honor all veterans and veterans' organizations. According to a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Web site, the historical significance of the date coincides with the temporary cessation of hostilities, or armistice, seven months prior to the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. The armistice between the Allied Nations and Germany went into effect on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day on the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918, the Web site says.

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Leah Nixon  
Assistant Director of News Services  
University Advancement & Marketing  
420 Oak Street, PRK 101  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2031  
(231) 591-5604 / fax (231) 591-2985