**Press Release**

**Service Above Self: Vets Take The Hill**

**To Raise Money For VA Patients.**

**Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 14, 2015**—This Veteran’s Day, November 11, veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, will tell their stories on the stage of the University of Michigan’s Hill Auditorium punctuated by a spirited medley of patriotism and sacrifice performed by the University of Michigan Alumni Band, the Concordia University Choir and the U-M Dicks and Janes A Cappella.

“Service Above Self—Honoring Our Veterans” is a free public event thanks to The Mandell and Madeline Berman Foundation, Ardis and Mike Cicchella, and the Masco Corporation. Doors open at 6 pm. Steve Schram, General Manager of Michigan Radio, will emcee. For more information: [www.vetsatthehill.org](http://www.vetsatthehill.org). Michigan veteran storytellers will include:

* Robert Fletcher, better know as “Fletch,” served in the last all black Army regiment and was captured during a massive surprise attack as the Red Chinese entered the Korean war and held for nearly three years. He is a member of the Congressional Advisory Board for EX-POWs and is Past National Commander for the American EX-POWs.
* Greta L. Krapohl, PhD, RN, rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel while serving two decades in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, including an assignment at the White House Medical Unit. Her husband, Graydon, served 30 years in the United States Marine Corps.
* Brendan LeJeune served as a Marine in Fallujah, scene of some of the worst fighting in Iraq, before graduating from the University of Michigan and then earning a Master’s Degree in War Studies at King's College London.
* Art Holst who, before becoming a NFL referee and professional public speaker, served in the 3rd Army under General George S. Patton as a 1st Lieutenant and later as a Captain, supporting the armored drive through Nuremberg and across Nazi Germany to reach the Austrian border when Germany surrendered.

This performance will kickoff an effort to raise $8,000,000 to build a Fisher House—similar to a Ronald McDonald House—but for those veterans who came home to Michigan. Donors may contribute online at [www.vetsatthehill.org](http://www.vetsatthehill.org) to be assigned preferred seating for the performance.

“Whether it was fighting simultaneous wars on two continents and two oceans, standing up to communist aggression in Asia, or meeting the 21st Century’s challenges of terrorist attacks, fleeing refugees, and aggressive international rivals, no state has done more to assure our national security than the men and women of Michigan,” notes Ashish Sarkar, president of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor, which began the fund-raising initiative. The University of Michigan Veterans Student Council and Concordia University became early partners in this capital drive.

“There are more than 150,000 veterans currently undergoing care across the state’s VA Healthcare System facilities,” says Randy Ritter, retired associate director of the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. “Our military is the one percent who protect the ninety-nine percent of Americans. We can all take pride in giving back to our veterans who have given us so much.”