

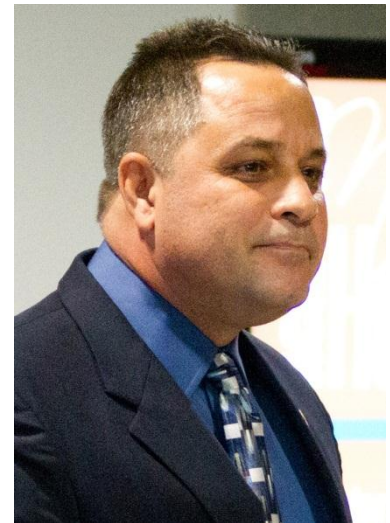
28-year Army veteran completes bachelor's degree he's always wanted

Retired Lt. Col. Douglas Maddox, Jr. is among the 3,135 students who will receive degrees and certificates from Palm Beach State Dec. 19

(Lake Worth, Fla. – Dec. 13, 2012) – Retired Lt. Col. Douglas Maddox, Jr., a 28-year U.S. Army veteran, is about to make good on a promise that he made to himself and his parents 30 years ago.

Maddox, 51, will receive his Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision and Management from Palm Beach State College. The commencement ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

Maddox, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the commencement student speaker, is among 3,135 students who will receive degrees or certificates from Palm Beach State. The College will award 1,881 Associate in Arts degrees; 289 Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees, 108 bachelor's degrees and 857 certificates. Commencement will be broadcast live on the Web at www.palmbeachstate.edu.



Maddox, whose parents will be in attendance, said this is one of the proudest moments of his life. "I have always excelled in my military education. That's what helped me evolve into the student that I am at Palm Beach State," he said. "It's been a phenomenal experience for me. It was the right fit at the right time."

After receiving his Associate in Arts degree from the New Mexico Military Institute in 1981, Maddox transferred to the University of Florida to get his bachelor's degree. But he dropped out of college and joined the military, following in the footsteps of his father, who is now a retired Army colonel. He assured his parents that their oldest child would go back to school and get his bachelor's degree. He just didn't expect it to be 30 years later.

“They pretty much gave up. They didn’t think that their first born child would ever graduate. It’s a little late, but I am,” said Maddox, who retired from the Army in June 2009 after serving 18 years in the Reserve and 10 years on active duty. Like many veterans returning to college, Maddox enrolled at Palm Beach State in 2010 under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. He says it was a good decision. “It’s part of the lesson that they (his parents) were teaching me to finish what you start and always do your best.”

Now Maddox, who from 2006 to 2009 served as a casualty assistance officer, said he plans to begin school at Palm Beach Atlantic University in January to complete his master’s degree in leadership. He says he hopes to become a ROTC instructor so that he can give back what he learned about leadership and help young men and women to be leaders.

While serving as a casualty assistance officer, Maddox was interviewed for a documentary on casualty assistance and notification officers called “Notification,” which appears on the DVD version of the 2009 Academy Award- nominated movie “The Messenger” starring Woody Harrelson and Ben Foster. As a casualty assistance officer, Maddox notified and provided support to family members of soldiers who died while on active duty.

Maddox currently serves as the state director for the Selective Service System, a civilian position, and serves as a VA work-study student at the Vet Center in Greenacres helping veterans.

Serving 49,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor’s degrees, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

Editor’s note: Contact College Relations and Marketing for a high-resolution photo of retired Army Lt. Col. Douglas Maddox, Jr.

Media contact:

Tabatha B. McDonald
College Relations and Marketing Specialist
(561) 868-3127