

COLLEGE RELATIONS AND MARKETING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boynton Beach Widow of WWII Vet to Donate Survivor's Flag to PBCC at Flag Day Event

(Lake Worth, Fla.—June 9, 2004) Palm Beach Community College is holding a special ceremony on Flag Day (June 14) honoring donors to the College's state-mandated campaign to put an American flag in every classroom by August 2005.

Among those to be honored is Barbara Bartels, a Boynton Beach woman who is donating a flag she received in 2002 after the death of her husband, Grant, a World War II veteran.

Also being honored are the American Legion 11th District, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the PBCC Chapter of the Florida Association of Community Colleges and the Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Memory Gardens Funeral Home, which were the first groups to come forward with donations to buy flags for PBCC's 270 classrooms.

The ceremony will be held at **9:30 a.m.** at the flag plaza in front of the Administration Building in Lake Worth, 4200 Congress Ave. A reception will follow.

Bartels, a retired PBCC secretary, said she decided to donate the flag after reading a newspaper report about the new state law requiring flags in each college and university classroom. The schools must also attempt to obtain the flags through donations for one year before digging into their budgets or pursuing other funding sources. College officials estimate they need to raise \$3,000 to purchase flags for all of the classrooms, but with the recent donations they're already halfway there.

"The support from the community and our employees has been incredible," said PBCC President Dennis Gallon. "The patriotism of our country shines when people are willing to donate money for flags for our classrooms even before we launch an official campaign. We want them to know how much we appreciate their support."

The College is using Bartels' generosity and the state law as an opportunity to honor faculty, staff and students who serve or have served in the military. PBCC plans to send Bartels' flag to Washington and Tallahassee to fly over the nation's and state's capitols. It then will be displayed in the Administration Building.

Bartels, who worked at PBCC for 16 years, said she is happy to help and supports the law to add a flag to the classrooms of colleges and universities.

She met Grant Bartels when he worked as director of security at PBCC. He had moved to Florida after retiring as a lieutenant for the Nassau County Police Department in New York, where he served for 24 years. He also was a former Marine who served during World War II and participated in action at Kwajalein Atoll. They were married for 29 years before he died Dec. 11, 2002.

Donations for the purchase of classroom flags may be made to the PBCC Foundation, 4200 Congress Ave., MS#20, Lake Worth, FL 33461.