



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH SALUTES VETERANS WITH NOVEMBER 11 OBSERVANCE AND AWARDS CEREMONY



(L to R) Francis (Frank) Shea (first cousin of Admiral Frances T. Shea Buckley), USJ President Rhona Free, Ph.D., Paul Shea (second cousin of Admiral Frances T. Shea Buckley), Vivian Garibay-Presa

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (Nov. 11, 2016) – The University of Saint Joseph held its second annual Veterans Day Observance on Friday, Nov. 11, 2016. The event, which honored the generous service of all veterans, included an awards ceremony where the inaugural recipients of the Colonel B. Catherine Noble and Rear Admiral Frances T. Shea Buckley Awards were honored.

The Colonel B. Catherine Noble Award is named for the University of Saint Joseph alumna who earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition in 1947. Throughout her 28-year military career, Noble served in numerous dietician positions around the globe. At the time of her retirement in 1979, Noble – who received a Distinguished Alumni Award from USJ in 1975 – was among the highest-ranking African American female officers in Army history and the first African American woman to hold the rank of Colonel in the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

Air Force Captain Yvonne Joy, DNP, APRN, FNP, assistant professor of Nursing at USJ, received the Colonel B. Catherine Noble Award for her outstanding service not only throughout her military career, but also during her time at the University. A recipient of

several medals, including the Outstanding Unit Award and National Defense Service Medal, Joy now serves as a role model for both the USJ community and the students she helps through her tireless volunteer work in Guyana.

The second award was named for Rear Admiral Frances T. Shea Buckley '50, DAA'79, H'10, who earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Saint Joseph in 1950. Joining the Navy at the outbreak of the Korean War, Buckley served her country in numerous positions, including Director of Nursing Services at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland and Director of the Navy Nurse Corps in 1979. By assuming this final assignment, Buckley was promoted to Rear Admiral and, as a result, was the only active duty female Rear Admiral and one of the highest-ranking women in Navy history.

Vivian Garibay-Presa '14, MSW'16, received the Rear Admiral Frances T. Shea Buckley Award this Veterans Day for her devoted service within the military, the USJ campus, and the Social Work community. During her time as an undergraduate and graduate student, she was integral to the successful completion of veteran events, including the *Caritas Conference: In Praise of Veterans*. She also supported the Veteran's Student OASIS at Capital Community College and worked with USJ's Institute of Latino Community Practice. Through her work, she has put veterans at the forefront and has continuously exemplified the University's Mercy values.

The University of Saint Joseph is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of Joy, Garibay-Presa, and all veterans while honoring the memories of Colonel B. Catherine Noble and Rear Admiral Frances T. Shea Buckley.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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