

A Day of Gratitude

On a rainy November day, the Woodward community came together again for a Veterans Day program to pay tribute to alumni who have served in the military, including those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

This year's speaker was H. Bruce McEver '62, a Navy veteran who served as a supply officer on the U.S.S. Neptune [ARC-3] and was on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon. Mr. McEver holds a degree in industrial engineering from Georgia Tech and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. In 1983, he founded Berkshire Capital, pioneering the concept of providing independent merger, acquisition, and strategic advisory services for investment managers and securities firms.

In addition to his business achievements, Mr. McEver holds a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. He is a poet with a passion for the arts who endowed a poetry chair at Georgia Tech as well as the McEver Visiting Artists Program at Woodward.

During the Veterans Day program, Mr. McEver recalled his first experience of the GMA/Woodward campus, walking over with his mother to watch the Sunday parade as a child 60 years ago. He grew up in the neighborhood after moving to Atlanta when his father, a Navy fighter pilot during World War II, took a job with Delta Air Lines.

Mr. McEver shared stories of military veterans who have inspired him over the years, including his GMA classmate Steve Fanning Sr., who served in Special Forces during the Vietnam War, and a colleague from Berkshire Capital who joined the Marines after 9/11, becoming a fighter pilot and serving three tours of duty in Iraq. Mr. McEver reminded students that there are many ways to serve and urged students to find their own way.

"This is a day of gratitude," he said. "It's also a time for us to meditate on what we can do for our country."



Brent Brown '90, Sally Brown, Carey Brown, Bruce McEver '62, President Gulley, Natalie Brown Houk '90, and Wiley Houk