

News

Macomb County Board of Commissioners



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Randazzo Named 2020 Veteran of the Year

Vietnam Veteran Phil Randazzo's legacy does, and will continue to, live on through others.

Randazzo, a Shelby Township resident, dedicates much of his time to helping his fellow veterans navigate a tangled system to ensure they receive the benefits they deserve. His time spent in the jungles of Vietnam, facing countless battles with enemy soldiers, drove his crusade to be of service to others then and now.

"I do it for the ones that never made it out of Vietnam; the ones that never got to come home," Randazzo said while virtually accepting his award as the 2020 Pat Daniels Macomb County Veteran of the Year at the Nov. 19 Macomb County Board of Commissioners Full Board meeting. "It's a big honor, a very big honor."

Randazzo is the recipient of two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star and served as an intelligence reconnaissance scout for the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division during the Vietnam War. While overseas he fought in the Tan Son Nhut battle during the Tet Offensive in 1968, and several other face-to-face battles with enemy soldiers in jungles and tunnels.

"I have had the honor of working with and knowing Phil Randazzo for many years. He is a decorated veteran who has served our country with honor and distinction," said Commissioner Phil Kraft. "Mr. Randazzo's continued efforts to help his fellow veterans are commendable and I am proud the Board of Commissioners is honoring him as Veteran of the Year."

In addition to helping veterans receive the benefits they deserve, Randazzo also helps organize the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies in Shelby Township and serves as a member of the Macomb County Older Adult Advisory Committee.

"The dedication Phil Randazzo has to helping others is truly commendable," said Board Chair Bob Smith. "He has fought for the military benefits of others not just in Macomb County, but throughout the region. And, beyond that, he continues to find other ways to ensure our veterans are honored and celebrated."

Randazzo is the second recipient of the Pat Daniels Macomb County Veteran of the Year Award, the first being the award's namesake-Pat Daniel's. The award was created to express gratitude to the County's large population of veterans who have made selfless contributions toward serving and protecting our country, and their local community; 25 different veterans were nominated this year.

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners also unveiled the Pat Daniels Macomb County Veteran of the Year Award plaque that will bear the names of the current and future award recipients. The plaque is located in the Board Room on the ninth floor of the Administration Building.

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