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Honoring a Fallen Brother

09.15.2008 | President, Campus and Community

University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran accepted a \$35,000 check this weekend from the Alpha Nu Omega Alumni Association to establish a scholarship fund in honor of a UD alum killed in action in Iraq.

Col. Paul M. Kelly, 45, and 11 other service members died Jan. 20, 2007, when their Blackhawk helicopter was shot down outside of Baghdad. Kelly was serving in the Virginia Army National Guard and was one of the highest-ranking Army officers killed in Iraq.

The Alpha Nu Omega Alumni Association has established the Col. Paul M. Kelly Endowed Scholarship Fund to honor their fallen brother. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a UD student who has demonstrated leadership, volunteerism and service to the community.

"Col. Kelly took to heart two of the University of Dayton's mottos — the University of Dayton seal, 'For God and country,' and the more contemporary motto, 'Learn, Lead and Serve,'" Curran said. "Paul was a father figure, a friend to many and certainly a great leader."

Alpha Nu Omega has also raised funds to help pay for the educations of Kelly's two children and to help cover the college expenses for Bill Krieger, a fraternity brother who will receive an officer's commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps when he graduates from UD next spring.

"The motto of Alpha Nu Omega is 'Service for Brothers,' and that is what establishing the Paul Kelly Scholarship Fund is all about — brotherhood, unity and honoring a true American hero," said Jerry Walsh, who helped lead the fundraising effort.

Kelly had earned a degree in management from UD in 1984 and received his Army commission through UD's ROTC program. He held numerous leadership positions in the National Guard, serving in Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia. He commanded battalions of assault helicopters and thousands of troops in both Iraq and Bosnia.

Kelly's connection to his alma mater ran deep. He was one of six children, all of whom graduated from the University of Dayton: Brita '84, Theresa '85, John '85, Patrick '90 and Tony '95. Kelly's father, John, graduated in 1975 from UD with a master's degree and formerly served as director of graduate and alumni placement.

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