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College of the Ozarks to dedicate memorial to honor the patriots of the global war on terror

By Valorie Coleman
College of the Ozarks

On Nov. 7, College of the Ozarks will dedicate the newest addition to Patriots Park, a memorial to honor the patriots of the global war on terror.

"College of the Ozarks is honored to pay tribute to those who have defended, and continue to defend people from all walks of life who are threatened by the evil ideology of terrorism," said Marci Linson, vice president for patriotic activities and dean of admissions at

College of the Ozarks.

Bryan Cizek, director of patriotic activities at the college, has fought in the war on terror and knows its dangers firsthand. He served in the U.S. Army for nearly five years, starting out with the 4th Infantry Division out of Ft. Hood, Texas. Soon after, he joined the Operations Community and served in the 75th Ranger Regiment as an Airborne Ranger Team Leader, conducting multiple tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We were in the fight of our lives against an enemy whose sole existence threatens our way of life in America," Cizek said. "We were fighting against radical beliefs. Not a foreign superpower. Not a foreign army. We were fighting an insurgency. We went out night after night looking for those who wish to destroy the very principles our country was founded upon. When those towers fell, our country was fundamentally changed in how we live our lives – that's terror."

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