

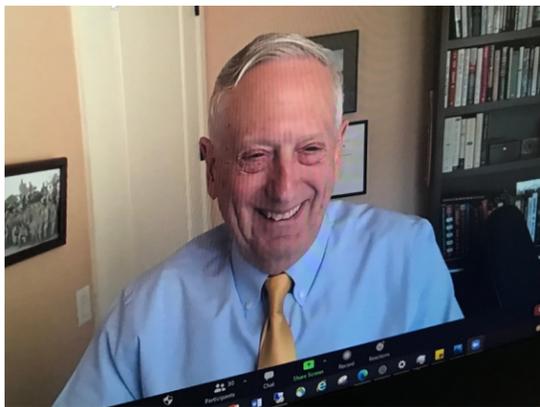
# *Las Positas College For Immediate Release*

**Media Contact:** Jennifer Aries  
Phone: (925) 784-0574  
Email address: jennifer@25comm.com

## **General James Mattis Special Roundtable with Las Positas College Veterans**

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**(Livermore, CA)** - Las Positas College Veterans First Program was proud to host a private Zoom conversation with General James Mattis and Las Positas College student veterans on January 27, 2021.



A native of Richland, Washington, Secretary Mattis enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at the age of 18. After graduating from Central Washington University in 1971, he was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

During his more than four decades in uniform, Secretary Mattis commanded Marines at all levels, from an infantry rifle platoon to a Marine Expeditionary Force. He led an infantry battalion in Iraq in 1991, an expeditionary brigade in

Afghanistan after the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001, a Marine Division in the initial attack and subsequent stability operations in Iraq in 2003, and led all U.S. Marine Forces in the Middle East as Commander, I Marine Expeditionary Force and U.S. Marine Forces Central Command.

During his non-combat assignments, Secretary Mattis served as Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense; as Director, Marine Corps Manpower Plans & Policy; as Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; as Executive Secretary to the Secretary of Defense; and as 26th United States of America Secretary of Defense.

As a joint force commander, Secretary Mattis commanded U.S. Joint Forces Command, NATO's Supreme Allied Command for Transformation, and U.S. Central Command. At U.S. Central Command, he directed military operations of more than 200,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines and allied forces across the Middle East.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2013, Secretary Mattis served as the Davies Family Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, specializing in the study of leadership, national security, strategy, innovation, and the effective use of military force. He has co-edited books, *Warriors & Citizens: American Views of Our Military*, and *Call Sign Chaos - Learning to Lead*.

"For many years, we have been asking General Mattis to come speak at Las Positas College," said Todd Steffan, LPC Veterans First Supervisor. "Since he was doing some work at Stanford University, we thought who knows, we may be able to get him to come to LPC. Each time we asked, General Mattis would quickly respond, 'I would love to come speak, but my schedule is really packed. 'Early this year, I sent him an email and he responded with his number to call. When I got off the phone with General Mattis I was speechless. I kept thinking I just talked to a world leader and no one will believe me. He has said yes and he could do a virtual meeting with our amazing student Veterans. General Mattis his main request for this meeting to occur. Just conversation with student Veterans. General Mattis is truly Inspiring - I could listen to him all day."

Through storytelling, he imparted excellent pearls of wisdom from his life experiences. With over thirty student veterans and alumni, he reflected on the value and importance of the oath. The oath is the one shared experience each person has when enlisting in the military. He shared 'you have to be able to author your own story.'



Las Positas College student Veterans reviews and accolades of General Mattis's conversation:

"It was truly an amazing experience getting to know General Mattis and his sincere responses to our questions. An inspiring and motivational leader with a wealth of knowledge and incredible stories." - Kenia Vazquez, LPC student, US Navy Veteran

"Hearing from a veteran with as much knowledge and experience as General Mattis is very humbling. He doesn't brag about his accomplishments, or think he is better than anyone else. I was honored to be among those selected to ask him a question, and will remember this experience for the rest of my life." - Aaron Traynor, LPC student, US Navy Veteran.

"During the round table meeting with General Mattis, there was this reigniting of my pride in being a Veteran. To be reminded that we still uphold the oath that we took during enlistment, and we still have a duty to our country. This round table really motivated me to keep to my values and my moral code." - Adriana Santos, LPC student, US Marine Corps Veteran.

The Las Positas College Veterans First Program provides veterans with services and resources to help them achieve their educational goals. This past academic year, more than 500 veterans, active duty military personnel, reservists/guard, and Veterans family members were enrolled at the college.

Veteran support services include a full-time support team, priority registration, Veterans scholarships, a textbook loan program, work-study program, relief fund for Veterans, an active Student Veterans Organization, virtual Veterans Resource Center, and many other services and programs for all those who served, currently serving, and military family members. For more information, please visit the website at [www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans).

### ***About Las Positas College***

Las Positas College currently enrolls approximately 8,000 students and offers curriculum for students seeking transfer to a four-year college or university, career preparation, or basic skills education. The College provides university transfer classes, retraining classes for those in need of employment or career advancement, a first-time educational opportunity for many adults, enrichment classes for those seeking a broader perspective, and career and technical training for those entering the technical and paraprofessional workforce.

Las Positas College is a learning-centered institution focused on excellence and student success. It is fully committed to supporting Tri-Valley residents in their quest for education and advancement. Las Positas College faculty and staff are distinguished by their energy, creativity, and commitment to making a difference in the lives of the students they serve and the future of the Tri-Valley region.