

NEWS RELEASE

News Contact:

Andrew Carothers, College of Marin, 415-485-9528, andrew.carothers@marin.cc.ca.us

NATIONWIDE RESPONSE TO COLLEGE OF MARIN ART PROJECT

“Faces of the Fallen” Tribute to American Soldiers Killed in Iraq

KENTFIELD, Calif., Nov. 23, 2004—What started as a local art project is bringing tearful responses from across America.

In College of Marin’s new “To Never Forget: Faces of the Fallen” exhibit, art students and faculty have painted portraits of each American soldier who has died in Iraq – more than 1200 – each a 5x7 face staring straight into the eyes of the viewer.

“Faces” has tapped into a river of emotion in towns and communities across America, many of which have brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, neighbors and friends in Iraq. More than 100 news outlets have profiled the exhibit, including ABC-TV national news and *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe* and *New York Newsday*.

Now, every day the college receives heart-felt responses from family, friends and others around the country needing a chance to remember and reflect on the loss. Some request portraits of their fallen relatives. Others ask that the exhibit to tour the country, or be posted online.

“Perhaps ‘Faces’ can change the political debate,” said art instructor Chester Arnold. “Instead of ‘red states vs. blue states,’ I hope that we can find common ground as we did after September 11th.”

Arnold created the project after reading a newspaper story when the U.S. death toll in Iraq reached 1,000. He didn’t anticipate completing all of the portraits -- but the project proved so emotionally-compelling for the artists that they couldn’t rest until they had painted them all. As the war continues, so do the artists.

The exhibit is currently open at the College of Marin Fine Arts Gallery. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Due to popular demand, evening and weekend hours may be added. More information about the show can be found at the college’s website (www.marin.cc.ca.us).

About College of Marin

College of Marin has been providing exceptional educational opportunities for students of all ages since 1926. Each semester, nearly 8,000 students are enrolled in over 1,100 credit classes. An additional 6,000 students take advantage of the College's many outstanding community education and community services classes. The College administration is located in Kentfield, CA. The College also operates the Indian Valley campus in Novato, CA.