

Veterans Day

November 11, 2019



Honoring All Who Served

va.gov



Lebanon VA Medical Center Veterans Recognition Ceremony

November 7, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

VA Chapel, Building 106

Reception immediately afterwards in the Patriot Café

John L. Gronski
Major General (R)
United States Army



Biography

Major General (R) John L. Gronski received his commission in May 1978 through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Scranton. He retired in June 2019 as the Deputy Commanding General for Army National Guard, U.S. Army Europe.

His previous key assignments include Commanding General of the 28th Infantry Division from Sept. 2012-April 2016. He also served as Deputy Adjutant General—Army, Pennsylvania National Guard; Commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division (Forward), Ramadi, Iraq; Commander of 55th Brigade, 28th Infantry Division (Forward), Task Force Keystone, Central Region, Europe; Military Liaison Team Chief in the Republic of Lithuania; and command and staff assignments with infantry and armor units. He has served as J-2/3, Joint Force Headquarters, Pennsylvania National Guard. MG Gronski has commanded infantry units at the company, battalion, brigade and division level.

MG Gronski is a graduate of numerous military schools to include the U.S. Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Ranger School and Airborne School.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Governor's Unit Citation, Combat Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab, Basic Parachutist Badge, the Order of Saint Maurice in the rank of Primicerius which is awarded by the National Infantry Association and the Republic of Lithuania Medal of Merit.

He is a graduate of the University of Scranton where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Penn State University and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. MG Gronski attended Alvernia University as a doctoral student in the corporate leadership program, is a certified Project Management Professional and holds a master certificate as a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from Villanova University.

MG Gronski is a member of VFW Post 6150 in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania. He is the recipient of the Frank J. O'Hara Award in the Government Service Category, the highest award bestowed jointly by the University of Scranton and the Alumni Society. He is also a recipient of the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award and James E. West Award. The Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars presented the prestigious Eagle Award to in recognition of his combat service and his leadership of the 28th Infantry Division. He is also a member of the Union League of Philadelphia.

**2019 Veterans Recognition Ceremony
Lebanon VA Medical Center
1700 South Lincoln Avenue
Lebanon, PA 17042**

Prelude.....David Minnich

**Welcome.....Douglas A. Etter
Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired
Chief Communications Officer, Lebanon VAMC**

**Invocation.....Chaplain John A. Galle, D. Min, BCC
Lieutenant Commander,
U.S. Navy, Retired
Chaplain Service, Lebanon VAMC**

***Pledge of Allegiance.....James D. Brunson
Veteran of the U.S. Army, Specialist
EMS Assistant**

***National Anthem.....Robin Greeninger
Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Corporal
Education Program Specialist, Lebanon VAMC**

**Charles Tyler
Veteran of the U.S. Navy, Hospital Corpsman Second Class
Clinical Information Specialist, Lebanon VAMC**

***Hymn #799 Verse 1 & 3.....America the Beautiful
David Minnich**

**Guest Speaker.....Dan Meuser
United States House of Representatives (PA-07)**

**Guest Speaker.....John L. Gronski
Major General, U. S. Army, Retired**

***Hymn# 807 Verse 1& 2.....My Country 'Tis of Thee
David Minnich**

***Benediction.....Chaplain Rose Sharon Bryan, M. Div. BCC
ACPE Certified Educator
Chaplain Service, Lebanon VAMC**

**Postlude.....David Minnich
(*please stand, if able)**

Please join us for light refreshments in the Patriot Café.

In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold in high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, through poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915



The Poppies of Flanders Field. The soil is rich with lime (the mineral, not the fruit). Poppies thrived in the fertile soil. Many soldiers were buried in Flanders a contrast of white crosses and vibrant red poppies. Major John McCrae was a Canadian surgeon who was moved by the sight of this, leading him to pen one of the most memorable war poems ever written - In Flanders Field. **Fields** are a symbol of Flanders with