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**DAVE  
McCARTHY**

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**PC remembers**

On Saturday, a group of World War II veterans will gather at Providence College to honor 37 of their classmates and comrades-in-arms who were killed in action.

The ceremony will be in Slavin Center, '64 Hall, at noon, with Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Joseph Weisberger as the speaker.

In the spring of 1943, some 380 soldiers were assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Providence College.

The Army paid their room, board and tuition costs. They were to get an education and officer status.

The goal of the program, conducted at more than 120 colleges and universities around the country, was to provide the Army with a leadership corps after the war ended.

But in March of 1944, the program was abruptly cancelled by an Army in need of replacements and reinforcements.

The men from Providence College were shipped off to Tennessee to join the 328th Infantry Regiment of the 26th Yankee Division.

The division went overseas and fought the Germans from October 1944 through the end of the war, including the bloodiest land battle in history — the Battle of the Bulge.

Robert Deasy, a professor of history at Providence College, said the ASTP soldiers "helped preserve the future of Providence College," which had been about to close because of a lack of students. It also led to approval of the college's request for a permanent ROTC program, which started during the Korean War.