



Lt. Col. and Tuskegee Airmen Liaison Officer Larry Millben



Navy Veteran Harry Croyle (left) and Doug Waite, president of General Motors Veterans Affinity Group



U.S. Army and Air Force veteran Tom Craft

## Veterans Honored at GM Tech Center

The 2012 Veterans Day ceremony held at the GM Tech Center in Warren was the biggest yet, said Mark Deppe, GM senior design engineer and retired Navy lieutenant. The event was staged by the UAW Local 160 Veterans Committee and the GM Veterans Affinity Group.

"This is the fifth year in a row that our two groups have held a Veteran's Day ceremony," Deppe said. "It gets bigger every year and this was our biggest. Approx-

imately 250 people attended."

Larry Millben, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel was the featured speaker, Deppe said. He spoke on behalf of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The group honors the elite group of African American pilots in World War II, and pioneers in pursuit of equality and integration of the Armed Forces.

The term, "Tuskegee Airmen," comes from the Tuskegee Institute, where the pilots' primary flight training took place.

Deppe said he and his colleagues had just seen the movie, "Red Tails," which was about the Tuskegee Airmen, so the group was on their minds when it came time to pick a speaker.

Other speakers: Ken Barrett, GM chief diversity officer and retired Navy captain; Bob Brinker, UAW Local 160 veteran's affairs president; and Harry Croyle, Navy veteran and junior vice commander, VFW Post 6756 in Center Line.

## 'Hooligans for Heroes' Raises Funds For The Wounded Warriors Project

Calling the Detroit City Football Club semi-pro soccer team a bunch of hooligans is no insult, said team member Gene Butcher.

That sobriquet is part of the name of the club's charitable wing, "Hooligans for Heroes," which raises money for wounded veterans returning from war zones.

"Our soccer club has a support club that operates along the line of the support clubs European soccer teams have," Butcher said. "The support club was started by me, my brother Ken and a friend of ours and fellow soccer club member Drew Gentry."

The club sponsors parties that start before the Detroit City Football Club's games. Members then march to the playing site and during the game they blow horns and play drums to support the soccer team, Butcher said.

One of the things European support clubs do is sell gear with the team's colors. Scarves are very popular, but they also sell things like team flags that fans can wave at games.

"If you have ever sat in the section of a stadium that is filled with a particular team's supporters in Europe, you will notice that everyone is wearing scarves with the same colors, the colors of a particular team," Butcher said.

"We have scarves and other gear our support club members and others can buy at the games. One day, a woman name Julie emailed us and said that her husband, Chris Monroe, was stationed in Afghanistan and that he was a huge soccer fan. She wanted to buy one of our team flags to send to her husband."

They were happy to send her a scarf, Butcher said. And a couple of weeks later they received an emailed photo of Monroe in Afghanistan manning a machine post. But he was flying the flag

they had sent his wife.

"Chris also has a blog where he writes his thoughts," Butcher said. "In one of his posts, he wrote that two of his best friends were seriously injured by an IED. That got us thinking."

Butcher said while this was going on, the three team members were also looking for a charity to support. They couldn't find one that really clicked with them.

"We have some fame around the country," Butcher said. "We said to ourselves, why not spend some of that fame helping our wounded veterans, so we formed Hooligans for Heroes to raise money for that purpose. All money raised through the sale of our gear goes directly to the nationally-known charity, The Wounded Warriors Project."

Hooligans for Heroes officially came into being during the summer of 2012, Butcher said.

The group will hold a tailgate party at Ford Field on Dec. 8, when the U.S. National Women's Team plays China. Gear will be on sale at the session.

Butcher said putting Hooligans in the title of the charity was on

purpose. In Europe, ardent soccer fans are called hooligans and some have been known to start riots at games. This was their way of taking back the word and making something positive out of it.

"In total, we have donated about \$3,200 to the The Wounded Warriors Project," Butcher said. "The money came from our sales and from the two fundraisers we held."

The most recent fundraiser was a charity concert held in Smalls, a night club in Hamtramck. The event was organized by support club member Eric Abbey who plays in the band, "1592."

"Eric knows a bunch of other musicians who play in bands and he suggested the charity concert that was held on Nov. 2," Butcher said. "The concert had four bands playing and it was so successful that Eric suggested we hold another concert. That one is still in the planning stage and will take place sometime next year."

People interested in purchasing Hooligans for Heroes scarves and shirts can visit the group's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HooligansForHeroes-Detroit](http://www.facebook.com/HooligansForHeroes-Detroit).

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## Club GM Holiday Sale Set for Nov. 28-29

by Jim Stickford

Club General Motors is sponsoring a special holiday sale at the Vehicle Engineering Center's first floor exhibit hallway 30001 Van Dyke Avenue at General Motors Technical Center Road, in Warren on Wednesday, Nov. 28, and Thursday, Nov. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Interested shoppers will have the chance to peruse the goods of Silvique, a West Bloomfield business that sells sterling silver jewelry, including semi-precious stones set in sterling silver, and other items, such as stainless steel and tungsten jewelry items for men.

Prices are guaranteed to be 50

percent off retail. American Express, Visa and Mastercard will be accepted as well as cash for purchases.

The Germack Pistachio Company will also be at the sale on Nov. 28 only. Their products include a variety of nuts, nut mixes, candies, dried fruits and chocolates.

There also will be a Book Plus Book Fair with books for children, gardening books, cookbooks, how-to books, travel books and self-help books among the items for sale.

Those taking advantage of the special sale are also encouraged to visit the VEC Club General Motors store, also located on the first floor.

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