IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Oklahoma NROTC 75th Anniversary Celebration

NORMAN, Ok. (March 13, 2015) Twelve midshipmen from the University of Oklahoma Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) will receive their commissions in the Navy and Marine Corps at 10:00 a.m. on May 8 in the Reynolds Performing Arts Center.

One of the oldest NROTC programs in the nation, the University of Oklahoma will also commemorate its 75th Anniversary in conjunction with the Ceremony.

Following the commissioning ceremony, all current NROTC members, past alumni, students, family and faculty are invited to join in a celebration to be held at the OU Armory at 290 W. Brooks Street, Norman Campus at 11:00AM.

The official 75th Anniversary is June 13, 2015; however, our June schedule places the majority of our student battalion on summer training excursions around the globe. As tradition and heritage are attributes of the highest regard in both the Navy and Marine Corps, we want to celebrate this historic milestone with as many current and former midshipmen and OU faculty, staff and students as possible.

The NROTC program was established by an act of Congress on March 4, 1925. In 1932 the ability to commission Marine Corps officers under the NROTC program was added. There were initially six schools that began this program under this act. On May 14, 1940 the Oklahoma Board of Regents approved the application for an NROTC unit to be established at the University of Oklahoma and on June 13th the Department of the Navy confirmed that OU had been selected as the next NROTC site. Joining an elite group of schools (Harvard, Yale, Northwestern, George Tech, California, UCLA, Washington, Michigan and Minnesota) - Oklahoma became just the 10th school in the nation to have an established program in order to produce highly qualified naval officers. Today there are 61 host universities and a total of 166 colleges and universities in the nation that support NROTC participation through cross-town enrollment.

Over the last 75 years and under the direct supervision of 31 different Commanding Officers from the Navy and Marine Corps, the University of Oklahoma NROTC has produced well over 4,000 highly qualified Navy and Marine Corps officers. Through a combined dedication from committed midshipmen with the constant mentoring and development from unit staff members, these officers have been afforded one of the best and most time-tested foundations in the history of the nation. Our alumni include two U.S. Ambassadors, a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, numerous admirals and generals, legislators, executives, doctors, lawyers and an astronaut, to name a few. Today, Naval ROTC graduates Rear Admiral Jay Bynum and Brigadier General Tracy King serve as the senior OU graduates on active duty in the Navy and Marine Corps, respectively.

We encourage dissemination of this information and if you have any questions or would like to RSVP please feel free to contact Mrs. Julie Dahlgren at 405-325-2021.

Semper Fortis, Semper Fidelis and Boomer Sooner!

S.W. LOBREE