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FLAG DAY

Family marks long tradition of service

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Flag Day took on special meaning for the Barkley family on Sunday, which unveiled a new flagpole and plaque outside Mather Pavilion to mark five generations of military service within the family.

Alison Barkley, former president of the Evanston Chamber of Commerce, said a flag outside the pavil-

ion, a residential nursing care community at 820 Foster St., was a special wish of her father, William Barkley, who lived there four years.

"He made clear in his last care-plan meeting that he thought this facility should have a flag," Alison Barkley said at the ceremony. "Mather Pavilion heard him, they listened, they cared, and today the Pavilion has made my dad's request a reality.

The Barkley family and others contributed toward costs for the flag, flag pole and plaque.

William Barkley, who died in January 2009, and June W. Barkley, his wife and Alison's mother and in attendance at the special ceremony, were married on Flag Day in 1947.

As a U.S. Marine in the 3rd Amphibious Division in World War II, William Barkley was at some of the

bloodiest Pacific battle sites, recalled his daughter, including Okinawa, Guadalcanal and Guam.

"In those battles he experienced much loss," Alison Barkley said, "but he also learned great respect for life, for our country and all that freedom offers its citizens.

"To Dad, our flag was and is the symbol of all that."

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A member of the U.S. Marine Corps Honor Guard presents the U.S. flag to June W. Barkley (seated, and with her son Paul Barkley) during a ceremony Sunday morning at the Mather Pavilion in Evanston. The ceremony honored her husband, William Barkley, a veteran of World War II who died in January. (Eric Davis/For STNG)