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**UNM Foundation Announces Endowed ROTC Scholarship
Established by Alumnus Patrick Conroy**

The UNM Foundation is pleased to announce that UNM alumnus Patrick Conroy has established an endowed scholarship in memory of his cousin, Pvt. James W. Whalen, who was killed in action in World War II. Conroy will complete the endowment agreement with a signing ceremony with UNM President David J. Schmidly and UNM Foundation President John R. Stropp on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m. in the Roberts Room of Scholes Hall on the UNM main campus.

The endowed scholarship will benefit cadets/midshipmen in the three ROTC detachments at UNM: Army, Navy and Air Force. The commanders of each detachment will select the recipients of the Pvt. James W. Whalen Memorial Endowed ROTC Scholarship.

In addition to cash gifts over the next three years, Conroy also has arranged a significant estate gift to augment the scholarship endowment upon his death.

Whalen, a member of a battalion pushing to the Elbe River on April 12, 1945, was assigned to a security detail protecting a vital radio delay station. He and his team noticed a large group of German soldiers bordering the highway, intent on stopping the Allied Forces' push into Germany's heartland. The Allies opened fire; the Germans retreated to a nearby barn and later surrendered. Whalen was killed in the firefight. He was awarded the Purple Heart. His regimental commander wrote, "Your son was held in the highest esteem by all members of his company and his loss has been deeply felt by his friends."

Conroy, of Arcadia, Calif., retired in 1997 from teaching modern language in the San Marino Unified School District. He earned a master's degree in Spanish from UNM in 1971. He is currently the president of the Los Angeles UNM Alumni Chapter. He devotes significant volunteer hours working in concert with UNM's professional recruiting staff to bring California students to UNM. In 2005, Conroy established an endowed scholarship in the UNM Department of Spanish and Portuguese for students who study abroad.

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