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VFW brings flag-folding lesson to Army Trail School

The local VFW members (from right): Post Commander Mike Henkelman, Glen Thomas, John Gardner, Jim Stepuncik and Charlie Harrell demonstrate the memorial folding ceremony of an American flag. It was part of a program that the local veterans shared with students at Army Trail School. Full story and more photos inside.

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VFW Post 7446 members visit Army Trail 4th graders

Members of Addison's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7446 visited 4th grade students at Army Trail School on Wednesday, Nov. 14 to commemorate Veterans Day. The local VFW members, Post Commander Mike Henkelman, Glen Thomas, John Gardner, Jim Stepuncik and Charlie Harrell, demonstrated the memorial folding ceremony of an American flag.

They then spoke with the students about their service in the military during the Vietnam War, answering questions about which branch of the military they'd served in, the draft, and the conditions under which they served.

The VFW members also brought Buddy Poppies for each of the students. These small artificial flowers

are hand-made by disabled veterans and the sale of the flowers helps the VFW support disabled veterans. Mrs. Joanne Beza, an aide at Army Trail, showed students the poppies, as well as a book, *The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans*, that she donated to the Army Trail School library. The *Poppy Lady* tells the story of how Moina worked to establish the red poppy as a symbol to honor and remember soldiers.

The 4th grade classes presented the visitors with cards and thanked them for their service. Before they left the school, the VFW members also visited 5th grade classes to talk to and take pictures with students they'd met with at this same event last year.



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Fourth grade students presented cards they had made to the veterans who brought the patriotic program to Army Trail School.



The 4th grade students at Army Trail took turns shaking hands with the visiting Veterans from Addison VFW, while thanking them for their service.