



NEWS RELEASE

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NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
281 MCMAHON DRIVE
NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA 15642

CONTACT: Mr. Jonathan D. Szish, 724-861-3039 or jszish@norwinsd.org

VETERANS' DAY PROGRAMS AT NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT – NOVEMBER 2018

NORTH HUNTINGDON, Pa. — Veterans Day is special and meaningful to our Veterans and to our students. Here are some of the ways that Norwin students will honor veterans' sacrifices:

Hahntown Elementary School

Hahntown's program was on Friday, November 9th. Fourth-grade students performed musical and patriotic songs. A light breakfast snack bar was available to Veterans after the program, provided by the PTA.

Sheridan Terrace Elementary School

Veterans will be honored in a program Wednesday, November 14th in the school's Cafetorium. The PTA will serve the Veterans and their guests some light breakfast refreshments in the community room.

Stewartsville Elementary School

Stewartsville's Veterans Day Program was held Wednesday, November 7th in the school gymnasium. The program featured special appearances by the High School Air Force Junior ROTC students and two trumpet players from the High School.

Sunset Valley Elementary School

Sunset Valley Elementary students were honored Veterans at a program on Monday, November 12th. A digital slideshow of the veterans was shown. In addition, the Sunset Valley PTA hosted a breakfast for the student(s) and their guest Veterans in the Sunset cafeteria.

Hillcrest Intermediate School

Hillcrest students saluted veterans in attendance at their annual program on Friday, November 9th in the Hillcrest cafeteria/gymnasium.

Norwin Middle School

Student Council sponsored a door-decorating contest for Veterans Day. Students in homerooms decorating doors with patriotic themes, which were judged on Monday, November 12th. Teachers also conducted several multidisciplinary lessons about honor and the history of Veterans' Day.



Norwin Middle School students decorate doors for Veterans Day.

Norwin High School

Norwin High School students who are enrolled as cadets in the Air Force Junior ROTC program acknowledged District veterans during two assemblies on Monday, November 12th. Student Rachel Langsdorf delivered a speech at the assembly, which is included on the following page.

Veteran's Day

Good Morning! I would like to take this time to thank the JROTC and everyone else for making this assembly so wonderful every year, and for giving me the opportunity to commemorate our veterans.

It is my highest honor and with the utmost respect that I am fortunate enough to speak with so many veterans here with us today. I would like to thank and recognize everyone who has served for their dedication, sacrifice, and service to our great country. Quite simply put, it is because of you, that all of us can enjoy the freedoms our nation has to offer. All veterans, no matter what branch, are defenders and protectors to all of us. They are our parents, our grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends. They are the people who put their lives on the line, to secure our future.

Veteran's Day is a holiday that honors the living, and those who have passed serving our country. It is always celebrated on the 11th day of the 11th month. However, veterans should be celebrated everyday. There is so much we can do to honor these brave men and women- such as simple day to day conversations with grandparents, relatives and strangers or volunteering our time to a variety of organizations. It is more than just thanking our veterans for their service, but rather taking time to hear the story from these humble individuals. Also one of many great organizations to be involved with is the Operation Finally Home. Their mission is to build custom, mortgage free homes for returning soldiers and their families. By contributing to this cause, we can really help and make a difference in the lives of our veterans. Sometimes the most important thing we can do to show our appreciation is giving our time.

We all somehow have a connection to the brave people who have served our country. I always knew my Great Grandfather was a medic in World War 2, but what I

didn't know was the extent of his contributions on the beach of Normandy, June 6th. Otherwise known as D-Day. One thing I was told over and over again about my Great Grandfather is that he never discussed his heroic actions. In the rare occasion when he was asked about how he earned the bronze star, he tremendously minimized and downplayed his contributions. It wasn't until after his death that my family realized what he had done. My grandmother found the written award from the army, that accompanied his bronze star, and a part of the citation reads "When a rising tide threatened to drown a number of untreated, wounded men lying on the beach, with complete disregard for his safety under heavy enemy fire, he assisted in administering medical aid, and removing the casualties away from the rapidly rising water."

My great grandfather never acted like or considered himself a hero. He simply thought he was doing his duty. Well this duty is something that inspires me. Whether inspiring us to always have tremendous appreciation, or inspiring the passion to serve our country. This duty that our veterans have taken on deserves our extreme recognition and gratitude. Often times we may never actually know what they endure for us. Their duty is truly heroic.

One of the most pure and simple quotes that speaks a million words is that "freedom does not come free". Our country's freedom is because of our protectors and defenders. Our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends. It is because of our veterans. We would not be who we are today if it wasn't for them.

Thank you, and God Bless America