



# The Cartan

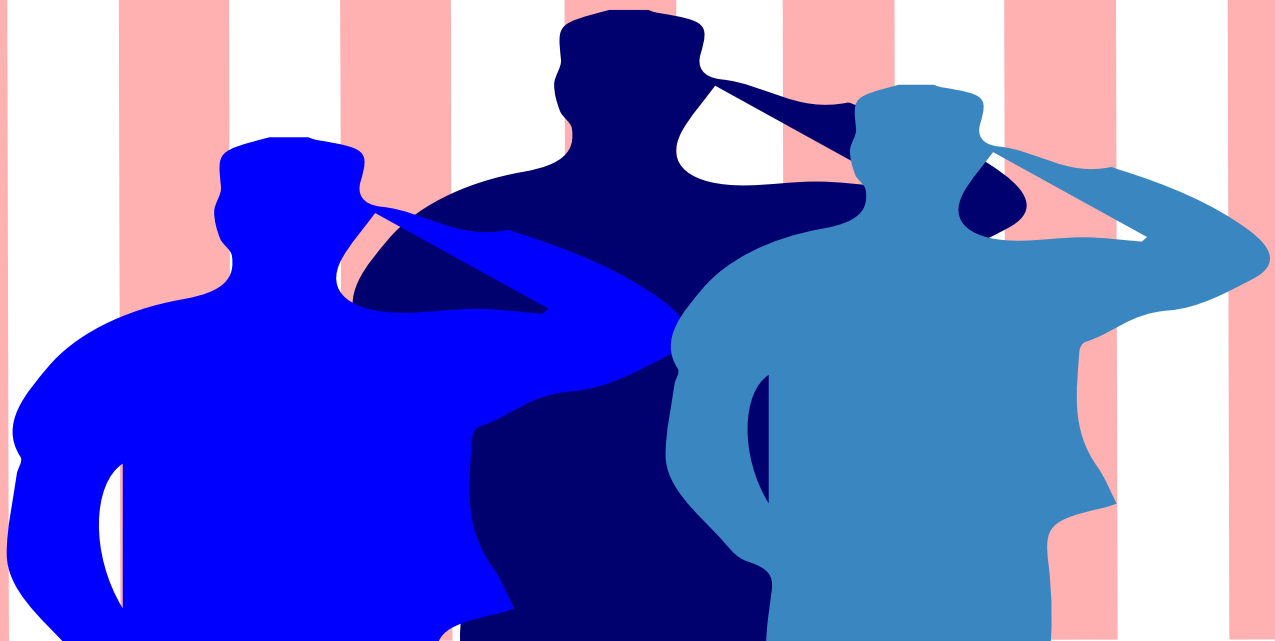


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VETERANS DAY SPECIAL EDITION

November 5, 2018

Veteran's Day  
**44**  
Assembly 2018



# THE VETERAN

by Elizabeth Dreyer

The meaning of being a veteran can't just be put into words. There is a strong significance and importance to the word "veteran." The word veteran is defined as "a person who has served in the military." To Oak Hills students, veterans are heroes who have impacted their lives and education experiences greatly. Those who have been fortunate enough to know a veteran and learn from their encounters and happenings, know the importance of a veteran.

We, Oak Hills High School students and American citizens, want to thank those who have fought for our freedom and our liberty. Without the bravery of our American heroes, our opportunity for education and life experiences would be diminished. It is hard for us to truly grasp the hardships and events that took place while fighting in combat. With knowledge and wisdom, those who have fought are able

to share their most intelligent stories, filling us with awareness and realization. Veterans allow high school students to gain understanding of the military field, and take that knowledge and understand the importance of fighting for our country. Oak Hills students truly acknowledge the impact that veterans have on American citizens.

When asking students and staff about the impact of a veteran, the results were unforgettable. Mackenzie Muller, Junior, believes that they display American virtue, while Amanda Tuchfarber, English teacher stated, "Veterans make me proud to be American and allow me to be thankful for what I have. The fact that men and women leave their family to fight for our country creates so much gratitude within the community." The impact on a veteran from serving is more than anyone will ever know. We will never truly know their

experiences firsthand, but we can always thank them for the experiences we get because of their sacrifice. Veterans give Oak Hills students and American citizens the light and ability to strive for the future. Thank you for your service.



Elizabeth and her Grandfather

## Welcome, Veterans

by Zach Witt

At any point in American history, the citizens are divided. But when freedom is threatened, whether it be by a foreign entity or inside force, Americans come together by forming a bond as strong as steel. Veterans are the living definition of unification; they come from all over the country, even the world, to support the common goal of upholding American ideals. No single group of people could ever be praised enough for their commitment to freedom.

As soldiers, you waved the flag in hostile territory, stood down threats to freedom. Now, as veterans, you live with all the sacrifices you have made. We would like to show you how much we appreciate your service, and while many of us lack the bravery to serve as you did, we hope that this day can show our appreciation. Your humility, passion, and courage inspire many. Not just in America, but around the globe. Because of you, we are safe. Because of you, we hold all that we cherish. Because of you, the United States is a shining beacon of hope to the rest of the world.

We appreciate you attending our program today to be honored for your time of service. We hope this will give you a sense of how thankful we truly are for all you have done. On behalf of the Oak Hills High School staff, students, and community, we thank you for your service.



## VETERAN DISCOUNTS

by Pieper Buckley

Upon enlisting into the military, American men and women give the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the safety and happiness of all citizens. Although we can't repay this toll in full, everyday savings and special treatment in various businesses may bring us one step closer.

Here is a list of various corporations that have special veterans savings every day.

### ENTERTAINMENT AND TRAVEL:

- Cinemark Movie Theater: Discounted Tickets
- Allegiant Airlines: Free Baggage and Carry-On, Free Pet Onboard
- United Airlines: 5% Discount
- Amtrak: 10% Discount
- Carnival Cruise Lines: Discounted Tickets (+ Family)
- Disney Parks: Discounted Tickets (+ Family)
- Expedia: Free Membership (+ Family)
- Great Wolf Lodge: 30% Discount
- Greyhound: 10% Discount (+ Family)
- KOA Campground: 5% to 15% Discount (+ Family)
- Six Flags Amusement Park: Discounted Tickets and Free Admission Days (+ Family)

### RETAIL:

- 1-800-FLOWERS: 20% Discount
- NASCAR / NBA / NFL / NHL Shops
- Bass Pro Shop: 5% Discount
- Buckle: 10% Discount
- Costco: Up to \$60 in savings

- Footlocker: Various Discounts
- Hanes: 10% Discount
- JoAnn Fabric: 15% Discount
- Lowe's: 10% Discount
- Michaels: 15% Discount
- Nike: 10% Discount Online
- Pottery Barn: 15% Discount
- Under Armour: 15% Discount Online

### CAR COMPANIES

(various individual discounts available)

- Chevrolet
- Chrysler
- Ford
- Harley-Davidson
- Kia
- Nissan

### ELECTRONICS

(discounted plans and rates)

- Apple
- AT&T
- Dell
- Lenovo
- Microsoft
- Sprint
- T-Mobile
- Verizon Wireless

**The Ultimate Sacrifice***by Cameron Fink*

Every name that will be announced today is deserving of our honor, gratitude, and respect. However, many names will go unannounced. These names are among those that were killed in the midst of battle, one of the more than 1.1 million Americans to lose their lives while serving according to PBS.org. Coming home is an incredible feat, and the community is indebted to you all for your service and protection of this country. Beyond this, there are also those that are now MIA, there were about 94,000 POWs of WWII, for example. They are subjected to starvation, disease, and torture. Whether they have been KIA or are MIA, unfortunately, not everyone that has served has been able to experience the rest of their lives at home. For some, the war continues well beyond the official years as POWs, in their hearts back home, or in the thoughts of the loved ones that have lost their family members and friends. Those sitting here today, and those that have given the ultimate sacrifice, or are presumed to have done so, have not only fought for their own lives, but for the lives of others. One distinctive trait of a veteran is their ability to be selfless. To sacrifice their time to give more to others, their comfort for constant attentiveness, and for some to cede their lives are the marks of a fighter, in every walk of their lives before and after service.

**Veterans***by Guest Writer Megan Dugan*

I want to start off by of course saying thank you. Without veterans and those currently serving we couldn't enjoy all of the little things we take for granted everyday. You fought and risked everything for our freedom.

My great grandpa Harold Dugan, and his five brothers, all joined the military. He swore into the Navy in 1954 at the age of 17 and absolutely loved it. "I thought the world of it, it made me behave, and taught me a lot." He was happy to do something good for his country while also learning to be a machinist and earning his GED, in his family of thirteen, this was considered an accomplishment. He has explored the United States and foreign lands and seas on four different ships and submarines. Now at 81 years old he wishes for all non-military citizens to simply respect those who are sacrificing everything for you.

My cousin Staff Sergeant Daryl Dugan served from 2003-2007 in the Marines and fought in Iraq and Kuwait, he is also actively serving in the Ohio National Guard. When he was just a junior in high school, he witnessed the World Trade Center go down. That made him want to support his country by joining the Marines at the age of 17. To him and others "Military means service, whether that be the front lines of a war effort or in the communities of America as the National Guard does during a natural disaster."

Even with them serving nearly five decades apart from one another, they (along with many other military personnel) have given up so many things to fight for our freedom. They gave up goodbyes for us. They gave up peace of mind; not knowing what lies ahead. They also all have untold horrific stories that will remain that way. And while serving in another country, they missed family, friends, birthdays, holidays, births, and funerals. Despite missing out, Daryl and my grandpa would still do it all over again. "I would if my country asked me to. That's what we do in the military. We serve, whenever/wherever."

**A Tribute to My Grandpa***by Guest Writer Alexandra Kidd*

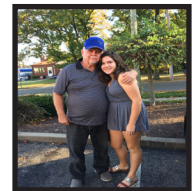
A hero is a person who is admired or idealized for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. This tribute is for my grandpa, James Lloyd. He joined the the U.S. Marines when he was just 18 years old. My grandpa is my hero because of his bravery, patriotism, and safety for our country.

My grandpa joined the Marines because his friend came home and started telling him about how fun and amazing the Marines was. He didn't have a very good outlook on getting a job, so he thought joining was worth a shot. "All the fun my friend said he had was a lie. The first thing that that was said to me after stepping off of the bus was 'spit out that chewing gum you ugly puke'. I thought to myself 'this wasn't gonna be good.'"

I asked my grandpa how basic training went, to which he responded, "they mentally tear you down. They want to mold you into what they want you to be." He was a Hollywood Marine and went to the boot camp in San Diego, Cal-

ifornia. He mostly traveled to the far east, such as the Philippines, Vietnam, and Guam; but he also went to Hawaii and many other places in and out of the country. When I asked what the military taught him, he replied with many answers, "discipline. The meaning of real camaraderie. Team work. What death looks like, which I don't think us as Americans know unless you're in the military."

My grandpa is a smart, strong, and funny man. I asked if he worked with any military dogs, "no, unless you want to count some of the guys I worked with." My grandpa is a hero and a fighter. He not only fought in the Vietnam war, but he fought fires, and fought with cancer. He won his battle with cancer and is happy and healthy to this day. My grandpa is not only an American hero, but he is my hero.



## Letter From the Staff

Dear Veterans,

It was truly our pleasure to design this edition for you, as we hope this will be able to show you how thankful we are for your service. We were excited to have the honor of writing this year's Veteran's Day Edition of our school paper. This edition represents our gratitude to you and your courageous actions. You will find articles by students ranging from tributes to features, and from art to poems. We hope this enhances your time here with us on this special day.

We feature many student's input and work to show you just how much you mean to our student body. Oak Hills High School is one of the only schools in the Tri-State area who puts on a full day assembly that honors our local veterans. We

are proud to host such brave men and women as yourself, and we want this day to show you just how much you mean to our community and our country.

No matter how much we write, it will never be enough to say how truly appreciative we are for your service. We attempted to put into words the sacrifices you have made and how our world would not be the same without you; however, we know it will never be sufficient enough to thank you for all you have done.

Feel free to take this home with you to read whenever you choose. This was an incredible privilege to write for you. Out of everything you are able to take away from the day, please always know that you mean everything to the Oak Hills community.

From all of us on *The Tartan*  
Staff,  
Thank You



# HOW HAS A VETERAN

"My grandfather was in the Marine Corps. He inspired me to enlist into the Marines"  
-Austin Schaeffer

"My Father served in the Navy for 20 years to provide for my family. He doesn't get enough credit for how hard he worked for his family and country. I will always respect our Men and Women in uniform, they sacrifice so much."  
-Megan Sturgill

"Although I never met him, my great grandpa was a tank commander during Operation Overlord. What he did has made me feel stronger, and more confident in myself, as he would have wanted me to be."  
-Connor Fort

"I believe Veterans Day is a day to celebrate all of the veterans that have fought for us and everyone who is fighting for us."  
-Cassie Ginter

"I have several veterans within my family, each impacting me greatly. They have taught me important lessons that I use in my daily life. They taught me never to give up and to always strive for my best, patience - don't rush anything or take advantage of the time we have, and most importantly to have hope, which ties all three together. I couldn't have made it as far as I have without the impacts left by my family veterans to me and I am forever grateful for each and every one of them!"  
-Jaden Thompson

"My dad served for 2 years in the army. The stories he tells me and my sister are very inspirational. His bravery, passion and hard work ethic played a huge role in his time in the army and you can still see them today. He loved what he did and still reflects on those memorable times. He has inspired me to do what I love, and even though sometimes it'll get hard, to just remember to do what you do with my whole heart. My dad is the strongest man I know and always will be the bravest warrior there ever was, at least to me."  
-Erin Lough

"There are veterans spread through my family but the one who had the most impact on me was my grandpa. He spoke highly of the military and those who he fought beside and I will always speak highly of him and the man he was. All veterans have made positive impacts on every single American citizen in some way but those close to you, in my case my grandpa, will always be more special. Veterans allow us to live our lives as freely as we do today and I will be forever grateful for them and their sacrifices."  
-Ciera Franke

"I am not a student but a secretary here at the high school. My son is an active member of the US Air Force currently serving at Soto Cano Air Base Honduras. He is a Staff Sergeant and firefighter in his 6th year with the USAF. I have to admit I was a little naive when it came to our military as no one in my family has served in the military in the recent past. I have been fortunate enough to visit him at Tyndall AFB while he was stationed there in the last few years and honestly it's difficult to describe how proud it makes me to see all the young men and women that are serving our country. It truly is a fantastic experience and I thank each and every one of our service members for their contribution. I also want to thank all of our Veterans for the sacrifices they have made. I hope today's program conveys how thankful and proud we are for all that you've done! God Bless! One last thing, prayers for Tyndall AFB as it has been devastated by Hurricane Michael."  
-Silvana Scott

# IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

“Wilbur Meissner, a true patriot, honorable soldier, and the greatest great grandfather anyone could ever ask for was there for me all of my life but not just for me, for those around him worldwide. He served as a merchant marine in World War Two and dedicated his life to protecting our great nation from the oppressive evils that attempted to take our liberties from us. This veteran made me see that there is still some good in the world. If he were still here I would salute him one more time. God bless America and thank you to all of our veterans.”

-Maxwell Theuerling

“Veterans definitely make you think about how your life could have been if they didn’t defend for us, and that you show a deep gratitude for putting their lives first.”

-Lexi Davis

“A veteran has impacted my life in many different ways. The veteran that I will be talking about is my grandpa. He has taught me many things including how to carve wood, fish, how to build a fire, and he taught me a lot about trains. He inspired me to be my best self and to always give back and help out. We have done multiple volunteer activities with his church and other of his groups. I love him so much because he always makes time for me and is always there for me.”

-Carson Pessler

“My great grandpa was a Korean War vet. He was the kindest and sweetest person you would ever meet.”

- Caillie Ramstetter

“To me, Veterans Day is not only a day where we thank the ones who have served, but also a day to commemorate the ones who have fallen in battle and the ones who gave up parts of their lives to fight for us. Even though some people don’t deserve the freedom they are given, the ladies and gentlemen who stand up and fight for our rights are the ones who deserve everything.”

-Zach Witt

“I’ve always been inspired to learn about the VA and fight for better treatment / services for those who have served since a close family friend committed suicide from lack of treatment for his PTSD.”

-Pieper Buckley

“My grandpa was a veteran and he has showed me that no matter what I can go through anything in life if I have a little faith and hope.”

-Emma Crull

“Veterans all across this great nation, have fought for my freedom and independence, along with many other citizens as well. I, personally know a few veterans in my life, and they have taught me how to be confident, strong, and to appreciate everything in life. They taught me what it means to be a proud citizen of this country. I am grateful to be an American. Thank you Veterans for all you do!”

-Breanne Hoddap

## The Future of Veterans

*by Ciera Franke*

Veterans are the reason our nation is the way it is today. Without them, Americans would not be living life the same as right now. All of the freedoms we have, all of the rights we have, all of the privileges we have would not be possible without the sacrifices that our nation's veterans made.

In the past, veterans have not been as appreciated as they are today. Historically speaking, veterans were not welcomed by most people. The Vietnam War veterans, especially, were not credited for their hard work and sacrifices; instead, they were welcomed home with being spit on, yelled at, attacked, and even being called "baby killers." Today, however, is a different story. We now know that veterans were doing what was necessary in order for our country to prosper.

As the years have gone by, people have been more appreciative of veterans and us Americans began to realize that we need to respect our veterans more. Today, we hope we are recognizing you for everything you have done. We want to make sure that every veteran is thanked in the proper way, always expressing our gratitude for your sacrifice for our country.

Some veterans may speak about their legacy. We know there are not going to be veterans from every war forever, and some veterans might be scared that they won't be remembered. Rest assured, we are here to promise you that we will forever remember and appreciate what you did for us. Even fifty years in the future, amazing veterans like yourself should not, and will not, have to worry about being forgotten. Your legacy is here to stay because without you, we would not be the America that we are today. Oak Hills High School will forever remember the price you have paid in order to make sure that we are safe. We all thank you.

## Where Are They Now? Service Edition

*by Bailey Garcia*

Most students look forward to the day when they graduate and move on to the "real world." However, the underclassmen left at the high school rarely hear from many of those alumni again. Thus, leading to the Tartan's goal of discovering the lives of Oak Hills alumni, with our newest feature called "Where Are They Now?"

In this special Veteran's Day edition, we uncover the lives of two Oak Hills graduates currently serving in the armed forces: Maria Fantetti and Rachel Stergiopoulos. Both of them graduated in 2018 and decided to serve our country. Fantetti is in the United States Navy, ranking as E-1; Stergiopoulos is also in the United States Navy, ranking E-2.

During high school, each woman had a different life that shaped them into the person they are today. Fantetti spent half her day at Oak Hills and the other half at Diamond Oaks, taking Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) to prepare her for the life after high school. Diamond Oaks is a vocational school that specializes in careers prior to entering the workforce. Stergiopoulos also went to Diamond Oaks, but as a full-time student, attending her last two years of high school. She spent her time at Oak Hills taking AP courses and meeting her closest friends.

After high school, each of them sought out to join the Navy. Fantetti had always thought about serving but never really decided until her Senior year. However, Stergiopoulos had known since middle school that she wanted

to serve, finally deciding her Senior year as well as to what branch she would be joining.

Upon enlisting in service, both women had different views of what it now meant to serve. Fantetti has learned "the importance of giving back to your country and how your level of respect changes for those around you." She describes her Navy shipmates as the most supportive and caring people she has met, ultimately learning the true meaning of what it means to give back. Stergiopoulos adds to this, stating that she now knows the importance of "teamwork, self-discipline, and integrity," ultimately allowing it to "set yourself up for success."

Throughout the process, Fantetti and Stergiopoulos had mentors and people that guided them to where they are now. For Fantetti, her mentor was Chief Moyer at Diamond Oaks. For Stergiopoulos, her mentors were all those who had served before, looking up to what they have done and what she planned to do. Joining the Navy was a big step in each of their lives, something that couldn't have been done simply overnight. Both women relied on those around them, as well as looking up to you, the men and women who have served before them.

Not only did these women both join something bigger than themselves; they both came from a community that pours into the students and families around them. Oak Hills High School is proud to be a place where students of all kinds can come together to be a part of something so great, such as serving. Fantetti and Stergiopoulos are both extremely proud and grateful

to be Oak Hills High School alumni. "I'm proud to say that Oak Hills helped me grow and pushed me to always work towards my dreams, no matter how impossible they may seem to reach," Fantetti explains. Stergiopoulos elaborates to this by stating, "It's cool knowing my dad graduated from the same high school as me and my grandparents worked in the same rooms I was able to learn in. The community sticks together and I am proud to be a part of that." The Oak Hills community forever thanks all of our veterans, both past and current, and will forever be honored to graduate such brave and determined students. As for these young women, service will eventually come to an end one day, and their lives outside of the Navy will take off. Fantetti plans to major in Animal Research once she is out of the reserves. Stergiopoulos intends on continuing her career in the automotive field.

Both women have decided to give up everything to defend our country, just as you have. Oak Hills is proud to have alumni that represent our students, our spirit, and our country. From all of us here at Oak Hills High School, thank you for your service.





## Students Entering the Military

*by Jack Souders*

The several thousand students here at Oak Hills High School all choose different paths to take after they graduate. A few have chosen to follow your example by enlisting in the military. These students have chosen to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

One of our seniors, Abe Coogan, who is actually already a member of the military, gave a few words on what made him decide to pursue this career choice. When asked what the deciding factor in his decision was, Abe responded with, "Who can say they have over 1 million brothers and sisters?" Excited about the journey ahead of him, Coogan told me, "You only live once... If you have a chance to do something, do it. There are experiences you will have and that I have had in the military so far that you can get nowhere else." Abe's chosen to be a Military Police Officer because he believes it will help him in the real world. When asked what he was nervous about, Abe stated, "I was very nervous about going to basic training but now that it's over with it was nowhere near as bad as I thought it would be. Now I can just be nervous about going to Military Police school and getting pepper sprayed and tasered"

Another senior, Mason Herzner, has enlisted seeking guidance. When asked what led him to enlist, he said it was because of a "lack of direction". Much like many other enlistees, Mason is hoping to find a path in his life to follow. Herzner is excited to experience, "The culture of hard work and the constant push to improve." When asked what he wanted to say to those who

have served before him, Mason gave this statement; "Thank you for keeping the country safe and inspiring me to put my life back together and work hard at becoming something". It is clear Herzner is inspired by those before him.

Timmy Dolerhie has enlisted with the inspiration of his great grandfather. "My great Grandpa was in World War II serving for the US and while he was overseas he risked his life for another soldier and took a bullet for him and was awarded a Purple Heart for his bravery." Dolerhie's great grandfather is easily someone to look up to and strive to be like. When asked what he would say to another student thinking of enlisting, he said, "Just take your time on the decision, get with a recruiter and ask any questions you have for them and ask people around you on how they made their decision".

These students are to be commended for their decision. They hope to serve as you have served and make you proud by following in your footsteps. Our enlisted seniors are honored to say that they are apart of something so important and so noble. We thank you, and them, for your service.



## SERVICE STORIES

*by C.J. Wilke*

Many veterans have interesting stories from their time served with the military. Many of these stories end up in the ears of the younger generation, in hopes that these stories will be told to others.

First, is Frank Klar, Jr. He served during the Cold War and was stationed in Germany. He told a story of a time when he was going around Germany, driving down the Autobahn. He actually was going almost 100 mph. He said, "Well it's simple, I was having a little fun and was... cruising to say the least." He ended up getting pulled over by a police officer. The officer saw that Klar was in the military, and Klar got reported to his Major who ended up "wringing him out."

Next are some stories from Denver Gilliam. Gilliam was a recruiter for about 6 years. But, he ended up getting tired of it and went to take the Warrant Officer test, passing with flying colors. Since then, he became a Blackhawk pilot and served in Afghanistan. Now, he teaches instructors how to train Blackhawk pilots. The first story he tells is of a time when he was undercover. He had to have a "wife" to make things seem normal, when really, it was just another undercover soldier. He was out with "her" and a situation he wasn't expecting arose. A man came up to him and asked if he could buy his partner with "12 camels." Gilliam said that he was "very confused at first" and he ended up telling the man that he was sorry, but she wasn't for sale. He then told a story of a time that he was in Advanced Individual Training and it was time for a barrack's sweep. He had all of his stuff

checked, pressed, cleaned, ect. As the Drill Sergeant finished, he ended up being only 2 inches away from Denver's face. Denver said, "I couldn't help myself," so he started to crack up, laughing in the Drill Sergeant's face. This led to the Drill Sergeant spitting his face. Obviously, he wasn't very happy about it.

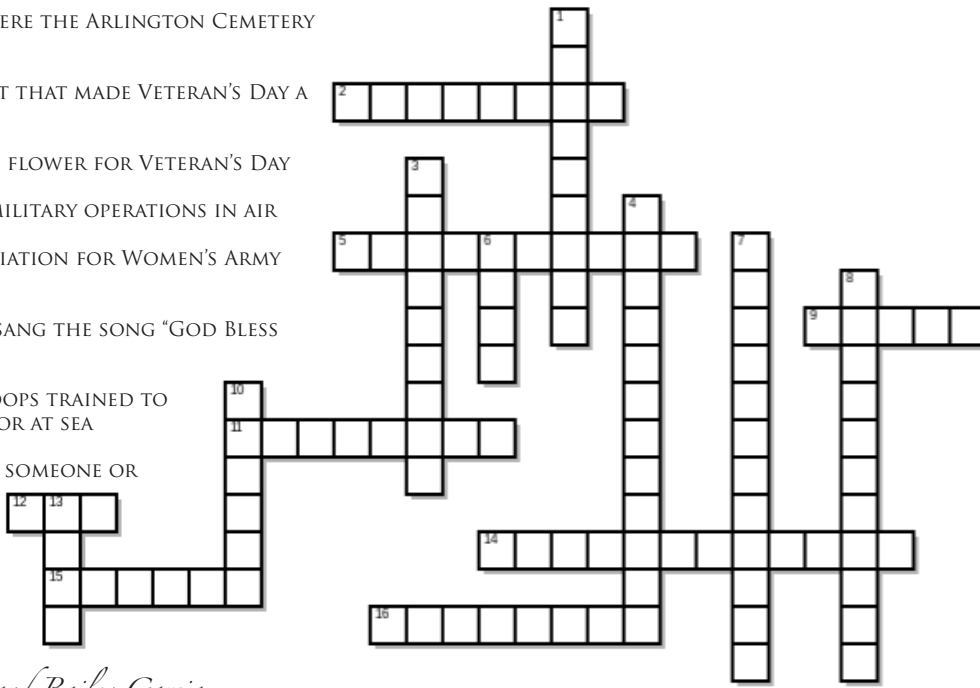
The final story is from my uncle, Charles Wilke. He first got to Vietnam in 1968 and the first Sergeant told him he was going to be a radio man. Thus, he needed to carry around 80 pounds or more. The next day, they end up walking through the area and they come across a stream. The men see a tree that has fallen over the stream, so they decide to walk across the tree so they won't get everything wet. Everyone got across easily, until it got to my Uncle Charles. He ended up falling into the stream with the radio and the other equipment. The platoon got him out and he said it took awhile to get everything dried up. The best part of the story is that it was only his second day.

Though these are some of the stories of the "fun" times men had in service, we all know that the sacrifices made and hard work put in is nothing to joke about. We sincerely thank you for your service and all you have done to keep us safe.



## Across

2. THE STATE WHERE THE ARLINGTON CEMETERY IS LOCATED
5. THE PRESIDENT THAT MADE VETERAN'S DAY A HOLIDAY
9. THE SYMBOLIC FLOWER FOR VETERAN'S DAY
11. CONDUCTS MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AIR
12. IS AN ABBREVIATION FOR WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS
14. THIS ARTIST SANG THE SONG "GOD BLESS AMERICA"
15. BODY OF TROOPS TRAINED TO SERVE ON LAND OR AT SEA
16. TO THINK OF SOMEONE OR SOMETHING



## Down

1. THE NUMBER OF PRESIDENTS WHO ARE VETERANS
3. ENFORCES THE MARITIME LAW AND PROTECTS LIFE AND PROPERTY AT SEA
4. THE HIGHEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS PERSONAL MILITARY DECORATION
6. CONDUCTS MILITARY OPERATIONS AT SEA
7. THE ORIGINAL NAME FOR VETERAN'S DAY
8. THE NUMBER OF STARS ON THE FLAG WHEN VETERAN'S DAY WAS INITIATED
10. A MILITARY SIGN OF RESPECT
13. TROOPS EQUIPPED FOR FIGHTING ON LAND

by Ciera Franke and Bailey Garcia

## Class of 2019 Legacy: Honor Flight

by Pieper Buckley

The Honor Flight Network is a series of events that take place around the country every year. These events give veterans from WWII, Vietnam War, Korean War, etc. the chance to visit Washington, D.C. with a guide and see the monuments built to honor the service they provided to the United States. Upon arriving back home, they are met at the airport with a huge group of people (ranging from 2 to 92) welcoming them home with cheers, applause, signs, costumes, and more. Many veterans consider this program the "thank you" they never received after their time in the military. Because of its heavy effect on the hearts of students, the Senior Class of 2019 has made his program our "legacy" in the school. We hope our involvement, donations, and support will spread awareness about the importance of the Honor Flight program for our community and nation.

Mr. Toney is an eighth grade math teacher at Bridgetown Middle School. Many students at Oak Hills first learned about the Honor Flight program from Mr. Toney's class. Every year, he would send his students the dates and times for all Honor Flight events, events that left a lasting impact on everyone who attended them. Students could stay after class

and make signs and letters for the returning Veterans, encouraging more and more kids to get involved. The following interview is with Mr. Toney, in reference to his history and involvement with the Honor Flight program.

### HOW DID YOU FIND THE HONOR FLIGHT PROGRAM?

"When I was doing my student teaching at Harrison is when I first learned of Honor Flight. One of the teachers I was working with told me about it and I was immediately interested. My Grandpa was a World War II Veteran and it was something I know he would have enjoyed. Unfortunately, he passed away before Honor Flight started so he never got the chance to be a part of this. I decided I wanted to be a Guardian on an Honor Flight, and once I did I knew I had to get my students involved."

### HOW DO YOU THINK THE PROGRAM HAS CHANGED SINCE STUDENTS HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED?

"When the students get involved it allows them to have the opportunity to meet some of the men and women

that made our country what it is today. With more people, and students, involved at the welcome home celebrations it shows the veterans how much they mean to us and our country. It is a true honor for everyone of us to be at an Honor Flight, shaking their hands and welcoming them home. Without something like Honor Flight, the students may never get the opportunity to meet a WWII Veteran, a Korean War Veteran, and maybe not even a Vietnam Veteran. All of those veterans laid their lives on the line for our country, and with Honor Flight, our students get the chance to shake their hand and give them a very much deserved "Thank you" for what they have done for our country...a "Thank You" that many of them never received when they returned home from war. On top of what it does for our students is what it does for the Veterans. The looks on the Veterans faces when they have the younger generation of Americans thanking them for what they did, shaking their hand, and just being there to welcome them home, it's priceless to how it makes those veterans feel. The Veterans are extremely appreciative and taken back when they receive thank you's and letters from teens or younger kids. We have received several letters at BMS from

veterans that stated things like "It's nice to know that people still care about us, or "It makes me feel good knowing that there are still young people in the world that still care about our country and veterans." A small, simple gesture from a student, whether it be writing letters, showing up to an Honor Flight, or thanking a random Veteran can really mean a lot to that Veteran, and Honor Flight gives us the chance to be a part of that everytime they have a flight."

### WHAT WOULD YOU TELL STUDENTS WHO HAVEN'T ATTENDED AN HONOR FLIGHT?

"If I had anything to tell a student that has never been to an Honor Flight it would be to experience it, at least once, for yourself. Once you go to one, you will see how much it means to the Veterans and want to be a part of every one. I can talk and talk about how what a neat experience it is, but what I say does not come close to fully explaining what it is like to be there, and once you go to one you will understand exactly what I mean."





# Teachers Who Have Served

*by Emma Supe and Elysia Sturm*

Each year, Oak Hills High School hosts a Veterans Day assembly. We take time to honor the Veterans in our community for their bravery and relinquishment of time, and for some, the ultimate sacrifice of life. Oak Hills wants to properly honor our Vets with the utmost respect. There is nothing stronger than a Veteran, and we strive to make our guests know that they are appreciated. We don't want them to ever second guess their worth. Specifically, we would also like to take the time to honor our Veterans who are a little closer to home; a few of the Oak Hills teachers.

## Mr. Paul Limpert

*A member of the business education department, where he teaches Personal Finance, Entrepreneurship, International Business, and Sports Management. Mr. Limpert graduated from West Point Military Academy, and now teaches his economic and life skills to students.*

HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SERVE AND WHAT BRANCH?

"I served for just under 8 years attaining the rank of Captain in the Army. I was in the Armor branch."

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF THE VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY TO YOU, AND WHY?

"I think the best part of the assembly for me is when the Veterans enter the new gym and receive the applause and welcome from the students. Oak Hills students have always done a great job of making the Veterans feel special at this moment."

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART ABOUT GOING ON DEPLOYMENT?

"The hardest part about going on a deployment to Iraq for me was leaving my family knowing that it might be the last time I would see them. When you know there is a very real chance you will see combat it is almost as bad as when you do see it because you just don't know how, when and where it will happen. To this day I remember the morning I left for Desert Storm and it brings back some strong emotions."



## Mr. Ben Hageman

*He was an English teacher, an advisor for the Tartan last year, along with coaching girls track and field. Before the start of this year, though, he was promoted to athletic director.*

DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE TO GO INTO THE MILITARY AND SERVE?

"Yes. In addition to the sense of duty and pride, joining the military helped me to develop skills that have helped me to be successful. The military provided me with discipline and structure that I have carried with me into every other aspect of my life."

WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU LEARNED WHILE SERVING?

"How fortunate that we have it as Americans. Traveling the world showed me that our country is truly great and unique. We really have freedoms that are not present everywhere. While we may have our differences, America provides everyone with equal opportunity."

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO JOIN THE SERVICE?

"Both of my grandfathers served in WW2. While I can't pinpoint a single moment that caused me to join, I think my life was forever altered because I did."

HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SERVE AND WHAT BRANCH?

"I served in the US Navy. 2 Years Active duty. 4 Years reserve."

## Mr. Kirk Rettig

*Mr. Rettig teaches both Genetics and Biology at Oak Hills. He's a leader and an excellent role model for the students to look up to. His knowledge and wisdom make his daily science classes fun.*

HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SERVE AND IN WHICH BRANCH?

"I served in the US Army for three years."

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN STATIONED AT?

"Camp Casey, South Korea (near DMZ) as well as Fort Riley in Kansas."

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE SERVICE IMPACTED YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS DAY/ ASSEMBLY?

"I enjoy the Veterans Day service, I think it's fun but a little tiring- a little long lived."

DO STUDENTS ACT DIFFERENT ON THE DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY COMPARED TO ANY OTHER DAY IN SCHOOL?

"Good students are good students, although, some are more respectful than others."



All of us here at Oak Hills appreciate our veterans, their service, and their sacrifices that they've made to our country. Some of our own teachers have served and protected our great nation, and are continuing to serve our schools and communities, of which we are extremely grateful for. We would like to personally thank these teachers as well as the you, our veterans, attending the assembly; although thank you would be an understatement. Without you our freedom would not be a right, we owe it to you!

Protection Combat <b>HERO</b> American <b>Brave</b> Coast Guard Memorial Friends USA Special Forces Granddaughter Grandson Patriotic Blue Salute Marine Core Gratitude Appreciate UNITED STATES Life	Independence <b>Dad</b> <b>DUTY</b> Liberty <b>SISTER</b> National uniform <b>COURAGE</b> Rights Spirit Patriot <b>NO</b> Victory <b>ARMY</b> Civilian <b>Love</b> Veteran Country <b>of</b> Stripes People <b>Family</b>
<b>Patriotism</b> Grandmother <b>America</b> <b>Red</b> Respect <i>Soldier</i> <b>AIRFORCE</b> <b>HEROIC</b> Navy Protect	
White Service <b>Fight</b> <b>brother</b> <b>Grandfather</b> Strategy <b>Flag</b> <b>Peace</b> Support Military	
Semper Fi <b>of</b> <b>GRATITUDE</b> Freedom <b>Survive</b> World <b>THANK YOU</b>	

by Kera Lough

