

Press Clippings 11/012/2018

---Daily Herald---11/12/2018

Veterans Voices project comes to U-46 classrooms

Submitted by: Elgin Area School District U-46

This month, students and staff in Elgin Area School District U-46 will support and honor local veterans and troops with special ceremonies, concerts, breakfasts, and assemblies. In addition, dozens of local veterans are visiting schools across the district this week and next to talk to students about their service and their lives in a program being held in partnership with the Gail Borden Public Library.

"By welcoming these veterans into our classrooms, the students get to learn about American history from a very personal perspective, and to better understand the sacrifices that members of the military make," said U-46 Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders. "At the same time, it's a wonderful way for our students and staff to have a chance to express their appreciation, in person, for the veterans' service."

Tish Calhamer, community engagement manager at Gail Borden Public Library, is working with 40 volunteer veterans who will visit more than 100 U-46 classrooms as part of the special program, called Veterans Voices.

Veterans who may want to participate in future events are encouraged to visit www.gailborden.info/veterans to learn more and submit a volunteer application.

"This program draws on the power of personal stories, and reminds students that history is all around them," Calhamer said.

Amador "Johnny" Vargas, a 90-year-old veteran of the Korean War, visited Veronica Aristeo's dual language classroom this week at Garfield Elementary School in Elgin as part of the Veterans Voices program.

"I was proud to be a soldier. I fought for that flag," he said, pointing to the American flag hanging in the corner of the fifth-grade classroom.

Vargas was drafted into the Army, serving from 1951 to 1953 in the 2nd Infantry Division's 38th regiment. He described how patrols were organized, how soldiers would take turns in foxholes -- one sleeping while the other would be on guard, and he spoke with pride about his division's reputation as one feared by the soldiers on the other side.

Vargas learned to play the trumpet as a child, and after he returned from military service (as a corporal) he had his own band. As a retiree, he found his musical talents in demand playing "Taps" at military funerals, and in a moment during which he got

wistful, he described for the students how he prefers to play the song, slow and drawn out.

"When I play 'Taps' I think of all my buddies I lost in Korea, and I put a lot of feeling into it," he said. "I want people to feel the emotions I feel."

Additional Veterans Day events:

- On Friday, Nov. 9, Larsen Middle School, 665 Dundee Ave. in Elgin, will host a breakfast for veterans at 8 a.m. in the library, followed by an all-school assembly with the EHS band performing and two guest speakers.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Lords Park Elementary, 323 Waverly Drive in Elgin, will host a breakfast for veterans 8 a.m., and a chorus will perform a medley of songs to honor them. Veterans will visit classrooms to talk to students and answer questions.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, South Elgin High, 760 E. Main St., will host a Veterans Day ceremony at 8 a.m.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Heritage Elementary, 507 Arnold Ave. in Streamwood, will host a Veterans Day ceremony at 8:30 a.m.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Liberty Elementary School, 1375 W. Bartlett Road in Bartlett, will host a Veterans Day breakfast and celebration at 8:45 a.m.
- For each dollar a student or staff member at Canton Middle School, 1100 Sunset Circle in Streamwood donates the week of Nov. 5, they will receive a strip of paper to honor, remember or thank a service member. The goal is to fill the halls of Canton with a "Chain of Thanks." During a Nov. 9 assembly at 9 a.m., the donation will be presented to Salute, Inc., the Canton Band will perform, and the school will honor the veterans in attendance.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Kenyon Woods Middle School, 1515 Raymond St., South Elgin, will host a musical salute to veterans and a panel of veterans and active members of the armed forces talking to each social studies class throughout the day at 9:15 a.m.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Bartlett High, 701 Schick Road, a Veterans Day assembly will be held at 9:18 a.m.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Willard Elementary, 370 W. Spring St. in South Elgin, will host a Veterans Day assembly at 1 p.m.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Kimball Middle School, 451 N. McLean Blvd. in Elgin, will host a Veterans Day assembly featuring the Elgin Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, a color guard, and discussion of flag etiquette at 2:30 p.m.

- On Friday, Nov. 9, students at Clinton Elementary, 770 Mill St. in South Elgin, have written "thank you" letters to veterans, collected candy for troops, and designed a "Wall of Honor." Students and staff are urged to wear red, white, and blue.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Elgin High, 1200 Maroon Drive, lunch and performance by members of the band honoring current veterans on staff, in addition to a display outside the main office.
- On Friday, Nov. 9, Nature Ridge Elementary, 1899 Westridge Blvd., Bartlett, is organizing "Operation Gratitude" to collect candy to send to troops
- Through Nov. 12, Larkin High School, 1475 Larkin Ave. in Elgin, is hosting a display outside the deans' offices honoring Larkin's veterans and active-duty military.
- On Monday, Nov. 12, a member of Veterans Voices will speak to Amy Weber's kindergarten room at 11:30 a.m. at Creekside Elementary School in Elgin.
- On Monday, Nov. 12, Hawk Hollow Elementary School in Bartlett will hold a Veterans Day celebration at 8:45 a.m.
- During the building-wide "Morning Meeting" on Monday, Nov. 12, Hillcrest Elementary teachers will lead their students in close reading activities, creating a timeline regarding the history of Veterans Day, and writing a "thank you" letter to veterans to post by their classrooms.
- On Monday, Nov. 12, as part of the school's "Socks for Soldiers" drive, new socks can be dropped off at the front office of Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School, 510 Franklin Blvd. in Elgin. Donations will be given to the Elgin American Legion Post.
- On Monday, Nov. 12, Spring Trail Elementary School in Carol Stream, students and staff will be encouraged to wear red, white, and blue.
- On Tuesday, Nov. 13, Sycamore Trails Elementary in Bartlett will hold a Veterans Day assembly at 8:30 a.m.
- On Friday, Nov. 16, students will perform a musical program to honor veterans at 8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. at Garfield Elementary School, 420 May St., Elgin.
- Throughout the first half of the month, students at Fox Meadow Elementary in South Elgin, will write thank-you letters to veterans in nursing homes.

Elgin pays tribute to veterans, marks end of World War I

By: Steve Zalusky



- Air Force veteran Rich Moen of West Dundee salutes Sunday as the Elgin High School Band plays the Air Force march.

Elgin continued its tradition of honoring veterans, but Sunday's Veterans Day observance took on special significance.

Mayor David Kaptain paid special tribute to the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I -- the "war to end all wars."

"The ground we stand on and this memorial should be rededicated each Nov. 11," Kaptain said.

The ceremony featured music from the Elgin High School band, which played the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and honored the branches of the armed services with appropriate themes, as veterans from each branch stood.

A Combined Veterans' Color Guard presented and retired the colors, and American Legion Post 57 in Elgin delivered a rifle salute.

Kaptain put the anniversary in perspective by reciting a grim catalog of the changes in the way war has been fought since the First World War.

"These young men glimpsed the future of warfare, and it was not pretty," he said.

He also talked about the changes the war brought on the world stage.

"The royal families that had ruled countries for hundreds of years were displaced from power. The war had changed the way we looked at government and the way we looked at

the way the world was run," he said. "Families like the Romanoffs, the Habsburgs, the Hohenzollerns, all disappeared and became part of history."

He closed by reflecting on the Elgin war memorial and its meaning by quoting former President Calvin Coolidge at the dedication of the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri.

"This memorial has not been raised to commemorate war and victory, but rather the results of war and victory, which are embodied in peace and in liberty," he said.

Veterans from several wars attended, including World War II Navy vet and Elgin resident Warren Sullivan, who served in the South Pacific, beginning when he was 17.

"Freedom is not free. It's got a price tag and it's pretty expensive," added West Dundee resident Rich Moen, who served in the Air Force.

City Council member Terry Gavin said Elgin is a community that always has loved its veterans, dating back to the days when the Grand Army of the Republic, veterans of the Civil War, marched in the city's parades.

"Elgin does a phenomenal job," said Persian Gulf War veteran and Elgin resident Scott Webb said. "Elgin has always been very welcoming to veterans."

Education nonprofit honors U-46 with excellence award

Submitted by: Elgin Area Community School District 46

Elgin Area School District U-46 CEO Tony Sanders and members of the district's Assessment and Accountability Team received the Midwest AdvancED 2018 Values Driven Award of Excellence.

The district has tapped the nonprofit educational institution for accreditation of its five high schools.

The Values Driven Award of Excellence recognizes institutions that systematically model a specific set of values; dream big, stand up for students with a commitment to equity and integrity, be bold and daring, drive potential, be tenacious, and build connections.

"U-46 engaged every high school in the continuous improvement process," said Dr. Lori Franke-Hopkins, AdvancED Regional Director. "Public schools are not required to participate in any accreditation protocol; however, School District U-46 and school leaders were interested in improving and willing to take risks, welcoming outside administrators and educators to immerse themselves in each high school's landscape to determine to what extent the full potential of each student is being met. Courageous leadership was observed throughout all five high school reviews."

Elgin High School has been accredited since 1904. Each high school that was added in the district has earned accreditation upon their inceptions and renewed as needed. All five high schools earned accreditation again through AdvancED last year.

The nonprofit organization conducts rigorous, on-site reviews of a variety of educational institutions. Nominations for this award were received from a variety of sources, including volunteers, Engagement Review team members, lead evaluators, field consultants, AdvancED Advisory Committee members, and staff.

The award was presented Oct. 30 at the 2018 Midwest region Fall Conference in Schaumburg. CEO Sanders was joined by Laura Hill, director of Assessment and Accountability, and Lisa Jackson, coordinator of Assessment and Accountability.

"The Assessment and Accountability Department and I were proud to accept this award on behalf of all of our school teams and their thoughtful work to continually reflect and improve their practices," Sanders said.

"District U-46 has valued this process for more than a century and we're honored to continue the work today.

---The Courier-News---11/12/2018

Power outage at Larkin High School prompts early release

By: Rafael Guerrero

Classes at Larkin High School in Elgin were cut short Friday after the school had a power outage, officials said.

The electricity went out about 11:30 a.m. but students remained in the 1475 Larkin Ave. building until 1 p.m., when school officials dismissed them for the day, a note sent to parents said.

Students were allowed to leave or remain at the school until buses could pick them up at the normal dismissal of 2:55 p.m., the note said.

Student-athletes and their parents were instructed to contact their coaches about after-school practices or competitions.

A failed transformer was blamed for the outage; power was restored by about 3:30 p.m., a ComEd spokesman said. About 15 customers were affected by the failure but only the school lost power.