We Honor Your Dedication

Kelley School Salutes Servicemen, Servicewomen and Veterans

Friday, November 8th, 2019
The 16th annual salute to servicemen, servicewomen and veterans at Kelley School November 8th was another wonderful tribute this year to those who have served this country and those who are currently serving.
It began in the cafeteria with veterans and active duty military personnel enjoying breakfast, with school children related to them, at patriotically decorated tables.
A moving assembly followed with Principal Jeff Hamelinck warmly welcoming all the honored guests calling the opportunity to do so “a great privilege.” Then the third grade chorus, directed by Kelley general music teacher Libby Brozik, sang the “National Anthem.”

“This is a very special day for our school and I am so proud of our students, staff and retired staff that came back to help honor our veterans,” Hamelinck said. “We are truly blessed to honor you today. Thank you for your service and sacrifice you made at home or in other countries. You put your hopes and dreams on hold and sacrificed much to serve our country.”

He recalled an incident last December when he saw two Marines about to visit a third grade classroom. One of the men was a former student of his from more than 15 years ago when he was a teacher at Perkins School and who initially exhibited unruly, disrespectful behavior.

“But with the help of caring teachers, coaches and parents, this young man turned around _ that’s what Newark’s motto “Every Student, Every Day” means,” Hamelinck said. “And now he’s serving his country and helping to keep us safe. And there he stood in his uniform and I couldn’t have been more proud to see the man he has become.”

He also shared how his Dad’s father served in World War II; his mother’s father served in the Korean War; his uncle served during Vietnam; and his cousin’s husband is about to be deployed to Afghanistan.

Hamelink said none of these individuals spoke or speak much about their service, just quietly went about it with pride, honor and humility.

“They demonstrated Newark PRIDE _ keeping people safe and taking great responsibility. And our veterans here today and those who are serving _ have demonstrated Newark PRIDE by showing respect, responsibility, keeping our country safe and serving their community. It is right for us to celebrate our veterans and those currently serving our country and thank them for their service,” the principal continued as the packed auditorium erupted in hearty applause.
Hamelinck asked everyone to observe a moment of silence to honor those who died in combat and who are missing in action. Then three fifth grade band trumpet players Anthony DeYulio, Khy Salone and Brianna Bulman played “Taps.”

What followed was an audio tape recording of several Kelley School students thanking veterans and those currently serving.

Then Dennis Tellier, President of the Newark Veterans Council — on behalf of both the August Mauer Post 286 of the American Legion and the Arcadia Memorial Post 2883 — presented a plaque in appreciation of Kelley School’s annual salute to veterans to Hamelinck.
Hamelinck said he was humbled that Kelley School was receiving recognition for honoring area veterans from the Veteran’s Council, but it should be the other way around noting again that the men and women being honored spent years, months, weeks, days, hours and seconds sacrificing their time in service to our country and many at great risk.

He instructed Kelley School students to make it their goal to express their appreciation as often as possible, not just on Veterans Day.

“Whenever you see a veteran thank them for their service,” Hamelinck continued.

Then the Kelley School third grade chorus sang “For the Good of the Many.”

After that, each branch of service was recognized by the playing of its theme song and showing their insignias on banners held by children.

“It truly has been a pleasure and honor to thank you for the gifts of service you all have given us,” Hamelinck said as the assembly came to a close.

A reception in the front foyer of the school for the honored guests followed.