

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Veterans Day ceremonies held across Comal ISD

There may have been a few dry eyes left at Oak Creek Elementary School near the end of an emotional Veterans Day ceremony Thursday morning.

But after the event concluded with a “Salute to Veterans



Parade,” anyone carrying a box of Kleenex quickly became the most popular person on campus.

Students lined the main hallway and dozens of veterans made their way through the procession, shaking hands and receiving hugs along the way as Lee Greenwood’s patriotic song “God Bless the USA” played loudly through the school’s PA system.

“I think everyone – parent volunteers, teachers and students were in tears,” said OCES music teacher Susan Bartos. “It was very emotional to see how moved the veterans were.”

It was one of many Veterans Day assemblies held across Comal ISD.

At Startzville Elementary, students honored more than 100 veterans as fifth graders spoke about how privileged they were to be able to show their appreciation to their family and community members who have served or who are serving in the military. Students waved flags and sang “God Bless America” at the end of the ceremony.

“I think this is a special day that brings our community together,” STZES principal Dr. Denise Kern said. “It’s also a way for our school and our students to give back to our great community.”

At Smithson Valley High, veterans were honored with a breakfast and an assembly in front of nearly 2,000 students.

Two of the highlights were the SVHS band playing the service hymns from the Army, Navy Air Force and Marines, and a rifle drill by students in the JROTC.

“This is amazing; it’s just amazing,” said Frank Roberts, who served in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy during World War II. “To see young folks giving us so much honor and respect on a day like this is just perfect.”

At Church Hill Middle, students gave handmade cards to veterans thanking them for their service. CHMS ended its assembly with help from Canyon High School JROTC students who performed a sentimental “Prisoner of War/Missing in Action” ceremony.

“It’s a day for all Comal ISD students and faculty to remember those who have served, those who have died and those who are still serving our country,” said CHS JROTC instructor Kevin Cregier. “They allow us to continue to enjoy our freedoms as the greatest country in the world.”

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IN PHOTOS: Smithson Valley High Navy JROTC student Maxwell Terry thanks World War II veteran Frank Roberts for his service during a Veterans Day ceremony at SVHS. Roberts served with the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific from 1944-46.

Air Force Sgt. Court Sartain walks with his nephew Garret Sartain as Oak Creek Elementary students (l-r) Abby Williford, Cameron Dalbrego, Cameron Ikles and Baylee Griffin shake his hand. It was part of an emotional ending to the Veterans Day ceremony at OCES. Sartain has served two tours in Bosnia, one in Iraq and will be leaving for a one-year tour of Afghanistan in January.

Canyon High JROTC student Ashley Rizo helps perform the "Prisoner of War/Missing in Action" ceremony during the Veterans Day assembly at Church Hill Middle.