

Willard High School Purple Star Award Application

Evidence of Support





Willard City Schools hosted a Veteran's dinner at which the Huron County Veterans Service Office was invited to hold a special pinning ceremony. The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration was established in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, highlight their service, and pay tribute to their contributions. At the pinning ceremony, veterans were publicly presented with commemorative lapel pins as a lasting momento of the nation's thanks. The front of the lapel pin displays an eagle positioned in front of an American Flag, surrounded by a blue laurel wreath. The back of the pin contains the message: "A Grateful Community and Nation Thanks and Honors You," and includes the official name of the Commemoration.



Vietnam Veterans Dinner and Pinning Ceremony

Willard City Schools hosted a Military Appreciation Night Football game honoring past and present Military men and women. The game included an honorary pre-show, honorary captains, delivery of the game ball by a Navy Cross recipient, hot air balloon rides, and patriotic medleys played by the WHS Band. Flags for each branch of the military were on display and veterans were invited onto the field to form an honor tunnel. Players entered through the tunnel, shaking hands with the vets. Veterans were also invited to hold a giant flag during the national anthem. All players, cheerleaders, and band members dedicated their performance to a service member which was announced throughout the game. T Shirts were sold for the game to show support for our Armed Forces. The game was a collaboration of both communities.





Willard City Schools Veteran's Day included:

- Fellowship and a light breakfast
- Veterans and their guests entered the Haas gym full to the rafters with students Pre K-12
- Sheriff Corbin brought the Honor Guard and spoke
- Kindergarten students led The Pledge of Allegiance
- MS choir and orchestra performed
- HS band and choir led us in The National Anthem and a patriotic medley
- Old fashioned mail call-recognized each veteran in attendance with a mail bag-filled with crafts and letters from different ages, a buckeye, Pepperidge Farm cookies/goldfish,can coozie,dog tags,pens
- Stein Hospice provided Ohio veterans pins and certificates
- Mayor and City manager read poems
- Honored fallen soldiers with a flag folding and empty chair
- Had uniforms on display from each branch
- Recorded the event and published online
- Took pictures, printed and framed them, and presented to each veteran by end of the program







Last spring WHS contacted Honor Flight Columbus to be involved in a welcome home. They had never had a school contact them to physically be involved. Leery as they were, they agreed.

To prepare our kids and teachers, on Constitution Day in September, we showed our high school students the documentary called “Honor Flight” which follows the creation of the Honor Flight charity, as well as the reason behind it.

It began in OHIO!!!!



The Community Honor Committee events raise funds to sponsor seats on Honor Flight. Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

Willard City Schools has sponsored 7 seats for veterans and their guardians to attend the Washington DC Honor Flight experience.

Students and Staff then attended the “Welcome Home” celebration at the airport once veterans returned from their trip. Our students served as escorts as the veterans tunneled through the airport!





Willard City Schools hosted an Honor Run 5K as a fundraiser for our military appreciation events and Honor Flight sponsorships.

Community members could Run/Walk the 5K in honor of a veteran or active service member.

We invited veterans to present the 5K awards. Every participant received a medal and t-shirt.





Willard High School holds a Military Enlistment Signing Day where we invite the whole school to celebrate the enlistment of our graduating seniors. These students also receive red, white, and blue cords to wear at graduation.





A showcase displays tributes to Willard Alumni who have had special accomplishments during their service in the US military and honors all active and retired military service men and woman.

Showcase



WILLARD CITY SCHOOLS

Resolution for the Support of Military Children and Families

WHEREAS, our country owes the daily freedoms to the members of the Armed Forces, their family members and loved ones who share in their service and sacrifice;

and WHEREAS, we celebrate the exceptional service, strength and character of military-connected students and families in Willard City Schools;

and WHEREAS, we acknowledge that military families face unique challenges due to deployment, reintegration, service in combat zones and frequent relocations based on duty assignments; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Willard City Schools affirms their commitment to providing the resources and programs to support military-connected students academically, socially and emotionally;

and WHEREAS, the School Board of Willard City Schools calls for the continued creation of opportunities for military families and community members to purposely partner with schools in supporting student achievement, aspirations and social-emotional development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the School Board of Willard City Schools officially supports all military children and families;

and be it FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of Willard City Schools encourages all school staff and community members to initiate, support and participate in appreciation activities designed to recognize the exceptional role and unique sacrifices our military-connected youth make in our nation's best interest