

# CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Woodrow Wilson Middle School Honors Veterans**

The Veteran Program was started over 20 years ago by two retired Woodrow Wilson Middle School teachers, Harry and Naomi Meyers. Jennifer Lanzerotti, WWMS teacher, has been running the club for about ten years. WWMS students and Ms. Lanzerotti invited veterans and active service members from Clifton and the surrounding communities to take part in the event. The guests arrived at WWMS at 11 am for brunch prepared by Pomptonian and paid for generously by the Clifton Teachers' Association.

The Veterans visited each 8th-grade classroom and spoke with students for 45 minutes to share stories and experiences of the time that they served. The classroom setting gave students a chance to ask the veterans questions and to thank them for their service in a smaller environment.

Finally, the entire 8th grade reported to the auditorium to honor the Veterans. Mr. Lanzerotti's 8th-grade band played the marches for each branch of armed forces. Students introduced the veterans by their branch of the military, name, and rank. The band performed "Chimes of Freedom," and Mrs. Beres' Singsations sang the National Anthem and performed Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones to honor our guests.

The CHS ROTC, under the direction of United States Marines, Chief Warrant Officer 2, Alex Navarro, performed drill exercises. Members of the Veteran Reflection Club read poems expressing their gratitude and respect for the honored guests and current service members. Each member had a chance to speak to the Veterans during the luncheon as well.

The event honoring our veterans was an extraordinary experience for all. Students heard and saw, firsthand, what these great Americans did for our country while the veterans were able to spend time being honored by our community.

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