

REMEMBRANCE

Vets honored at Clinton Middle School

Assembly pays tribute to those who served

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CLINTON —Veterans —aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, grandparents and parents of students in the Clinton community — turned out at Clinton Middle School for its Veterans Day assembly Wednesday to be honored and remember those who have served.

Earlier last week, Clinton Middle School teachers asked students and students ' parents if they had any veterans in their families and if they would like to come to their Veterans Day assembly in honor of them and the veterans who have died.

"The veterans have done such an honor to serve our country and have given up so much and we feel at Clinton

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Lt. Colonel Wesley Golden (left) and Robert Goddard (right) shake hands at Clinton Middle School on Wednesday during a Veterans Day assembly.

Alexandria Bryson photos/ Clinton Herald

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VETS

Clinton MS honors vets

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Middle School we need to pay honor to these great services," Cynthia Wolf, Veterans Day assembly coordinator and sixthgrade special-education teacher, said. "We appreciate them veiy much and it's a tradition we have done at Washington and when we became one building we wanted to continue that tradition; the staff felt it was an honor and a privilege to be able to do this for the veterans."

Families and friends came to the assembly to honor the veterans along with Lt. Colonel Wesley Golden, a Clinton High School teacher who served as guest speaker, the Boy Scouts Color Guard and Miss Iowa Taylor Wiebers, who sang the National Anthem and God

Bless America.

"In more ways than you could ever imagine I am a better person today because of my service," Golden said. "It's not because of anything I have ever done, but it's because of the people who were around me. They have taught me about life and the experiences I have had have made me a better, stronger individual. I have met many amazing people in Afghanistan and many amazing people in Iraq, and they have taught me what it means to be a person and what it means to care, to protect and to serve. You need to have a will to try, a will to care and a will to give it your best shot."

In 1938, Nov. 11 became a national holiday and in 1954 president Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name to Veterans Day in order to honor veterans of all American wars.

"I was four years active in the U.S. Army and fought in the Vietnam War for 18 months," Dick Spittler said. "I'm kind of private about stuff like this but it's nice to see the representation for us."

The veterans that came Wednesday served in all branches of the military as well as serving in different wars - World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam War and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I served for 40 months, I didn't really have a choice since I was drafted. I was called for the training but I didn't pass.

When the war broke out and the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, they reclassified me. I was drafted on May 25, 1942, and I had 13 weeks of basic training at Camp Walters Texas, and from there after training I joined the second infantry division," Robert Goddard, a staff sergeant who served during World War II said.

"My team and I were close to Czechoslovakia when we saw a bunch of Germans walking towards us with guns. They didn't shoot, though; they told us the war in Germany was over and we had no idea at the time. July 13th was my birthday and that was the day that they were sending us back home to the U.S. It had to have been the best present ever."

Wiebers spoke to a World War II veteran who explained to her that they don't see themselves as heroes. Wiebers feels that it is our duty to give back to them and show them how they truly are heroes.

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