

Veterans Issue

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This is Us - Harper Creek Community Schools



“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

~ John F. Kennedy

Perhaps you remember the story of a young Harper Creek student’s act of patriotism that caught national attention. While playing basketball alone as his siblings practiced nearby in the HC Stadium, he stopped when he heard the national anthem being played at a nearby field. All alone, he stood at attention hand over heart on the empty court while the Star-Spangled Banner played. A passerby captured the moment and the rest, as they say, was history.

This is us - Harper Creek Community Schools. We are unique; lines between school and community blended

giving us a distinctive identity and connection with our families. As a community, we strive to live our appreciation for the brave men and women who serve and have served our country through military service throughout the year, not just on nationally recognized holidays.

More recently, our football team bore thirteen U.S. flags as they stormed the field in contest on September 10, 2021, in honor of the thirteen soldiers who lost their lives last month in Afghanistan. I am proud to say these examples are not isolated incidents, rather threads that weave into a beautiful tapestry of remembrance and honor. A particular point of pride is the Harper Creek High School Military Wall of Fame created and run by long-time teacher Larry Quick.

The Harper Creek High School Military Wall of Fame is located just inside the doors at varsity hall and displays the

names and dates of Harper Creek graduates who have served, or are serving, in the United States Armed Forces. In addition, it features plaques honoring those graduates who died in the line of duty, including Gary E. Salisbury – fallen 1968; Charles E. Outman – fallen 1969; Larry D. Beebe – fallen 1970; and Michael A. Dickenson II – fallen 2006. It is a tradition of honor that will span lifetimes and generation.

We cannot fail to mention our unique relationship with the SSG Michael A. Dickenson, II American Legion Post 257 located just across the street from the Harper Creek Administration Building. The post, whose name bears that of hometown fallen soldier and Harper Creek graduate, moved into the neighborhood only a few short years ago but nonetheless affects our schools and community in a profound manner. We are happy for their partnership on the installation and dedication of the 12th Man Flagpole at Harper Creek Stadium and their Color Guard presence at home events.


The SSG Michael A. Dickenson, II American Legion Post 257 is truly focused and committed to being good neighbors and community partners – not limited to those of us residing within the Harper Creek district but for our entire Battle Creek community at large. Their actions speak louder than my words and is clearly demonstrated through their slate of programming including community yard sales, Saturday farmers markets, family fun day events, pancake breakfast Saturdays, American Red Cross blood drives, and participation in the Adopt a Highway Program.

From my vantage, it is plain to see that our tapestry of success was weaved with an abundance of good neighbors, committed partners, and dedicated families imparted through the threads of liberty. Without all contributions, it can easily come unraveled. John F. Kennedy’s words were and still are a call to action – a call for us to live out through deeds our appreciation for the people who serve and have served our country through military service throughout the year, not limited to national holidays.


★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Thank You Veterans ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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