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Veteran's Day Observance at Riverview Elementary School Challenges Students to Serve in Local Community

On November 11, 2011, about 100 third grade students at the Spotsylvania County Riverview Elementary School learned the important principles that form the foundation of a republican form of government by recognizing that Veteran's Day honors the people who served to protect their freedoms, but also how the students can serve their local community. Third grade students got to see a World War II drill instructor, portrayed by an interpreter wearing authentic period clothing, who hollered for fun, "Do You Understand!?" and got an ear-splitting response from the students, "Sir! Yes Sir!" The enrichment for the Virginia SOL for third grade history and social sciences was provided at no cost to the school by the Educational Enrichment for Young Patriots (EEYP), a local, veteran-owned, non-profit organization in Fredericksburg. The goal of the enrichment was to help students better understand the sacrifices associated with serving the nation, state, and community, and empower students to become leaders in their school and community.

Following a parade of Veterans through the halls of Riverview Elementary School, the US Army 3rd Infantry Regiment's Fife and Drum Corps, from Fort Myer, VA, performed patriotic tunes for the student body, faculty, invited Veterans, and parents. Throughout the day, the classes K-5 individually came to see two large static displays of US Army soldier uniforms and equipment from World War II and the Vietnam War, provided by retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Rudy Schulz, of Alexandria, VA, and Dieter Stenger, the president of EEYP.

The principal of Riverview Elementary, Mrs. Dianne Holmes, embraces opportunities for enrichments offered by EEYP, which allows her students to benefit from creative teaching techniques. The goal of EEYP is to provide sustained enrichments for students throughout the grades K-5. The Educational Enrichment for Young Patriots is a local 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that helps students better understand history through the achievements of great leaders in the past and empowers students to become leaders in their school and community. EEYP is eligible to receive charitable contributions from VA residents and businesses that are tax deductible under the law. For more information go on line to http://www.educationalenrichment.org.



Above: The Color Guard of the 3rd Infantry Regiment's Fife and Drum Corps, from Fort Myer, VA, present arms during the opening ceremony for the Veteran's Day Observance held at Riverview Elementary School. Images: EEYP



Above: Retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel Rudy Schulz provides third grade students at Riverview Elementary School explanations on equipment used during the Vietnam War. Images: EEYP