



Gateway elementary students celebrate local veterans with special Friday program

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Veterans were the star of the show Friday morning at Gateway Elementary.

Students, parents, and staff gathered to say thank you to those that have served or are serving.

Veterans in attendance were seated on the stage and the students began with the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance by Boy Scout Troop 555.

The school recognized each branch of the military and asked veterans to stand.

Students then performed the Star Spangled Banner with motions they had learned.

Students also presented information about Veteran's Day.

"November 11th was originally called Armistice Day... in 1954 the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day to honor all veterans, not just those in World War I," students read to the audience.

"It has been celebrated on this day since 1938," stated another Gateway student.

All veterans in the audience were presented with a flag as a way for the students to say thank you.

The morning included many patriotic songs and students made heart symbols with their hands to show their love for the United States.

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Gateway students gave information on the history of Veterans Day at a special program to celebrate Veterans and all active military on Friday morning. (Photo by Charles Gillingham)

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"Oh, I love America," sang out little voices as they made heart signs in the air.

"A-M-E-R-I-C-A. I love America every day. If you love America, too, you can sing this song and I will sing with you," the students sang.

Other songs were performed as well.

"Fifty stars on a field of blue. Thirteen stripes for the colonies who set out to build a great nation," rang the voices of Gateway students as they sang the song "Our

Red, White, and Blue."

As the song ended the students continued to give information.

"The color red stands for hardiness and valor."

"The color white stands for purity and innocence."

"The color blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice."

"The students and staff of Gateway Elementary would like to thank all the veterans and their families for their many sacrifices," read one student.

While the program was filled with smiles and cheers, it ended on a somber, quiet note as Taps was played while the students returned to class.



Gateway students presented flag to all veterans in attendance at their program Friday morning. (Photo by April Davis)