

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Veterans' Day is rapidly approaching as we are already well into the month of November. Schools throughout our school district will mark this annual event with a special assembly either immediately prior to or following Veterans' Day on Friday, November 11th. These assemblies or ceremonies are generally solemn occasions for the emphasis is usually on those men and women of our armed forces who have made the supreme sacrifice of their lives in defense of all of the routine things that we take for granted.

What are some of these ideals that we so very often take for granted simply because people living in America have never been exposed to anything different? Let's look at education. Students in America are guaranteed the opportunity for a formal education. Indeed, this is deemed to be so important as to cause states to pass laws regarding compulsory education of their children. All too often, we take education for granted. I heard on the news back in early October that schools, which had been damaged by Hurricane Katrina, were just opening for the first time this school year. I have a feeling that families in that part of our country probably have a different perspective on education after having been denied access to an education for several weeks.

What about transportation to and from school? Most of us take our bus transportation program for granted. Students in many countries of the world do not have the luxury of a school bus to transport them to and from school. What about food? Our schools provide a breakfast to any student who wants it. We also provide a nutritious lunch for our

students. One way or another, there is no reason for any student in the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District to go hungry. This is certainly not the case in other parts of the world where many, many children have to go without food all day long. Many starve to death due to a lack of nourishing food. I wonder how many of us in America could actually endure some of the hardships of our fellow man in other parts of the world. Certainly, the unsuspecting power and destruction of Hurricane Katrina have put many in our country to the test.

At my age, I am grateful to the veterans of generations before mine who have fought bravely to protect our ideals and quality of life, as well as those from my own generation. However, I am also acutely aware and thankful for our present day members of the armed forces who are making sacrifices everyday to protect the things that we all take for granted. After 9/11, can we afford to take our safety for granted ever again? I don't know. But, I do know that Adams County can take pride in the young men and women who are working daily to help us feel safe again. You may not know who all of them are, but they are the products of our communities, our schools, and our churches. I know of several, and would gladly list those names for you here. However, I know that I would inadvertently leave out some names. Therefore, let me sum it up by thanking all of our military personnel, whether they are serving our nation now or in conflicts from our past. We would not be where we are today without your efforts and sacrifices.

Charles P. Kimble, Superintendent