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Local Veterans Visit with Blake Middle School Sixth-Graders as Part of Annual Tradition Honoring Veterans Day



Blake Middle School sixth-grade students pictured with Army veteran Dean Putnam (back left) and Navy veteran Tony Centore (back right). (Photo courtesy Medfield Public Schools)

MEDFIELD — Superintendent Jeffrey J. Marsden and Blake Middle School Principal Nat Vaughn are pleased to share that the school continued its annual tradition of inviting local veterans to speak with sixth-graders this year.

Eleven local veterans visited Blake Middle School on Nov. 6 in honor of Veterans Day.

Navy veterans Jim Aldinger, Sam Brand, Tony Centore and Paul Galofaro; Air Force veterans Ron Griffin and Bill Hajjar; Army veterans Gerry Irwin, Ray Neary and Dean Putnam; Army National Guard veteran Tom Sweeney; Coast Guard veteran Jim Mankus; and Marine veteran Jim Walsh visited to share their stories and answer questions from students.

Following the Q&A, the visiting veterans joined sixth-grade class representatives and teachers for lunch in the school's library.

“We are delighted to welcome local veterans each year,” Principal Vaughn said. "Their visit provides our sixth-graders with invaluable lessons in courage, resilience and service, and allows our students and staff to make positive community connections."

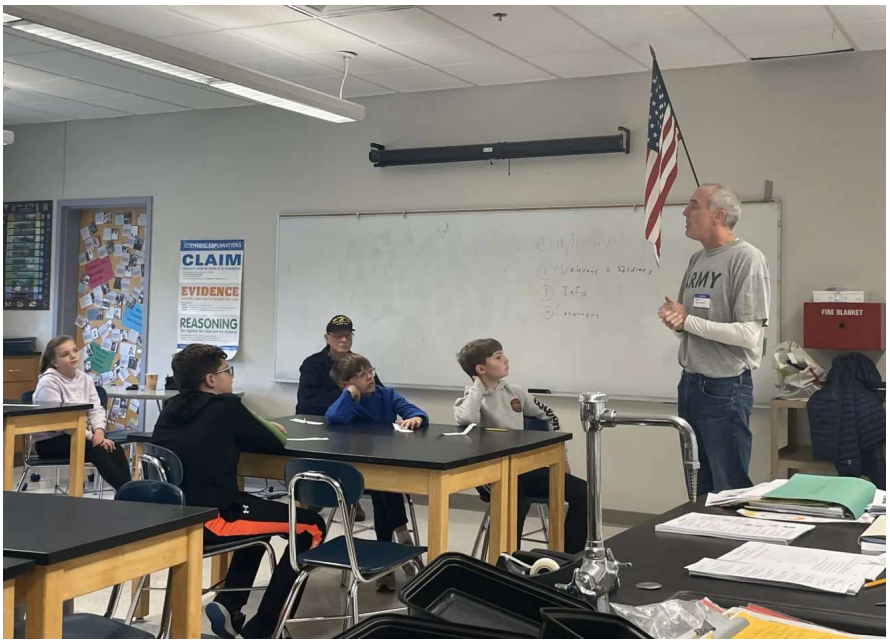
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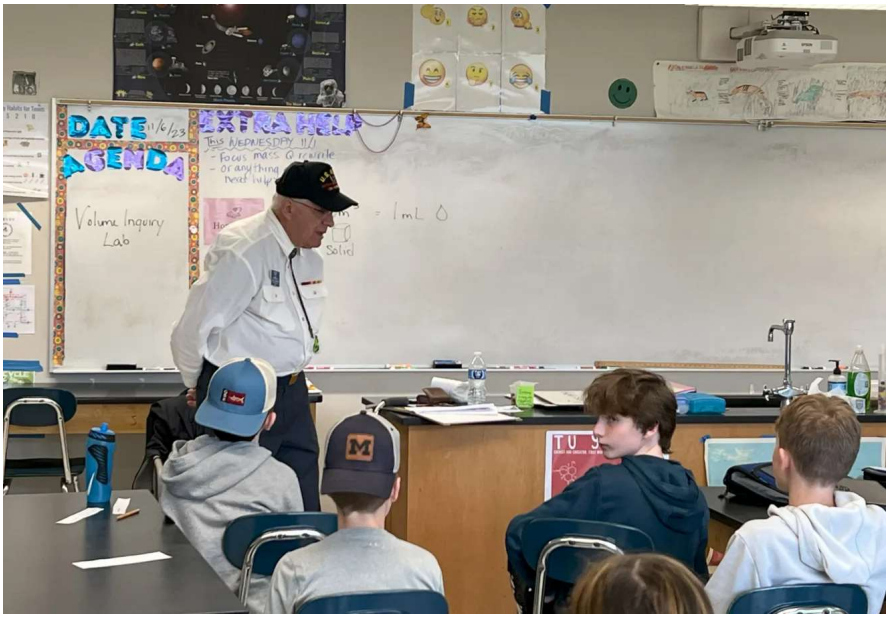
Army National Guard veteran Tom Sweeney talks with Blake Middle School sixth-graders. (Photo courtesy Medfield Public Schools)



Coast Guard veteran Jim Mankus talks with Blake Middle School sixth-graders. (Photo courtesy Medfield Public Schools)



Army veteran Dean Putnam talks with Blake Middle School sixth-graders. (Photo courtesy Medfield Public Schools)



Navy veteran Jim Aldinger talks with Blake Middle School sixth-graders. (Photo courtesy Medfield Public Schools)



Visiting veterans joined sixth-grade class representatives and teachers for lunch in the school's library. (Photo courtesy Medfield Public Schools)

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