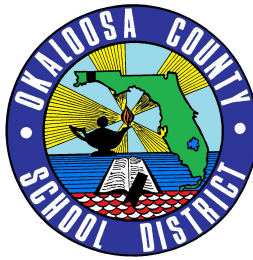


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 27, 2026

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Niceville High Softball Honors America 250 with Custom Military Appreciation Jersey

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, Okaloosa County schools are finding meaningful ways to honor both the milestone and local military families. At Niceville High School, the Lady Eagles softball team honors America's 250th anniversary in a highly visible way. This season, the team unveiled custom-designed Military Appreciation jerseys, paying tribute to America 250 and recognizing the service and sacrifice of military members, veterans, and first responders.

The jerseys feature a bold blue-and-black camouflage design, accented with red, white, and blue elements, along with the official America 250 logo. A custom patch representing all six branches of the United States Armed Forces further reflects the deep respect for military service that defines both the program and the broader Okaloosa community. Special thanks to Niceville parent and veteran Vince Mayfield of Bit-Wizards and TalkingParents, who designed and personally funded the jerseys. His generosity ensured that each player received and kept their own custom jersey.

“This is about more than a uniform,” said Head Coach Danny Hensley, a military veteran, teacher, and Air Force Junior ROTC instructor. “It’s about honoring those who have served, recognizing the families who support them, and helping our players understand the importance of service, sacrifice, and community.”

Niceville High School’s annual Military Appreciation Day game is a proud tradition. It features a ceremonial first pitch by an honored veteran, on-field recognition of veterans in attendance, and a presentation of the colors by the Niceville High School Cadet Corps. The color guard carries flags from all six military branches, creating a powerful, patriotic atmosphere. The initiative demonstrates the values the Okaloosa County School District upholds. Every school and the District earned the Purple Star designation, showing a deep and ongoing commitment to support military-connected students and their families. Educators, staff, community partners, parents, and students all foster this culture of support.

While the team continues to excel on the field, recently celebrating Coach Hensley’s 500th career win and building on a state runner-up finish, the program’s impact goes far beyond competition. “These uniforms represent who we are as a community,” said Superintendent Marcus Chambers. “In Okaloosa County, we take great pride in our connection to the military and our responsibility to honor those who serve. The Niceville softball program exemplifies those values through leadership, service, and a deep sense of patriotism.”

As the Lady Eagles compete in the postseason, their America 250 uniforms serve as a visible reminder of the team’s commitment to unity, gratitude, and community pride.

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(Niceville High School Softball Lady Eagles and Coaches)

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