

# VETERANS DAY 2013

- Sawyer: Welcome to the fourth grade Veterans Day Program, when we have the opportunity to honor the men and women, who have served our country so bravely.
- Cameron: On July 4, 1776, our forefathers bravely declared that the United States of America would be forever free.
- Patrick: Immediately, young men from throughout these new united colonies picked up their arms, and swore to defend this land with everything they had, including their lives.
- Morgan: It wasn't until many years later that an official Veterans' Day was proclaimed to honor the men and women who have so ably served in our defense.
- Conner: Today we honor them all, including those who first stepped forward and bravely proclaimed "We the people of the United States."
- Kenna: Please stand for the presentation of the flags and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and the Alabama state song.

Presentation of the Flags by the Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts

"Pledge of Allegiance"

"The Star-Spangled Banner" (2:04)

"Alabama" (1:17)

- Sofia: Across America in military ceremonies recognizing veterans of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, tables will be set as a way of symbolizing the members of the military profession who are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POWs or MIAs. Some call them brothers.
- Zane: The table is small, symbolizing the frailty of the soldiers alone against their oppressors. Remember.
- Hunter: The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. Remember.

Brody: The black napkin reminds us of the sorrow of captivity. Remember.

Sophia: The single rose displayed in a vase tied with a red ribbon is symbolic of the families and loved ones who keep the faith waiting for their return. Remember.

John: The slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. Remember.

Jake: The grains of salt on the bread plate are symbolic of the families' tears as they wait. Remember.

Noah: The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us. Remember.

Bella: The chair is empty. They are not here. Remember.

Maddie: The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. Remember.

Matt: Remember all of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid and relied upon them, for surely they have not forgotten you. Remember.

Tyler: We remember. It was called World War I, the Great War, the War to End All Wars. It raged from 1914 to 1918. There were over 40 million casualties; more than 20 million military and civilian deaths.

Manus: American men and women served heroically until the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month on 1918 when it finally came to an end.

Benjamin: We salute the memory of those World War I veterans with the music of their time.

"Over There" (2:23)

Ramsey: Unfortunately, the War to End All Wars . . . didn't. Once again, soldiers were called to defend those who could not defend themselves.

Jake: Boys from the Midwest suddenly found themselves fighting in the Far East. Teenagers, whose parents and grandparents had come to America from Europe, found themselves fighting for freedom in their parents' homeland, which did not seem like home to them.

Joshua: Men and women from such hometowns as Tulsa and Miami, Fresno and Albuquerque found themselves in the trenches of Normandy and Iwo Jima.

Caroline: World War II raged on from 1941-1945 and was the deadliest conflict in the history of the world. Today we salute those veterans with a song made popular in USO Camp Shows and dances.

“Tuxedo Junction” (2:51)

Astin: It would not be long after World War II that American soldiers would be called up again, this time in what has become known as the Korean Conflict.

Julia: But to the veterans who served there and the families they left behind, it was another war to be fought. And then there was Vietnam.

Mary: We salute the brave veterans who bore the weight of unimaginable conditions both at war and on returning home. It is never too late to say “thank you.” So on this Veterans’ Day, we humbly say . . .

All: Thank you.

“Ballad of the Green Berets” (2:33)

Katherine: In Iraq and Afghanistan, our soldiers bravely served. In Kuwait and Bosnia, our soldiers honored us with their dutiful service. In places with names we have rarely heard, our veterans heard the call and sacrificed for all.

Sam: Today, our wish is for peace around the world and freedom for all. Lasting peace and resounding freedom begins in the hearts and minds of all of us.

“Woke Up This Morning” (3:11)

Hughes: For those who continue to serve, we say that we have not forgotten you. For those who have served and come home, we again say thank you and welcome. Welcome home.

Will: No matter if you served with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard, we are forever grateful for what you have sacrificed for us. Your sweat and tears are not forgotten. In your honor, we will sing each branch’s official song. When your branch of service is called, please stand to be recognized.

“Step in Time” (6:00)

Bridget: At this time, we would like to show our thanks by presenting our family and friends, our Veterans, with a pin of appreciation. If you have served with the Army, please come forward. (Hand out pins.) If you have served with the Air Force, please come forward. (Hand out pins.) If you have served with the Navy, please come forward. (Hand out pins.) If you have served with the Marines, please come forward. (Hand out pins.) If you have served with the Coast Guard, please come forward. (Hand out pins.)

“Thank You, Soldiers” (3:15)

Nick: Now is the time to show our pride in freedom’s voices. We can be strong. We can be heard. We share our songs. We would like to say thank you for coming and thank you for serving. Let us leave you with one final thought. Stand proud of all that has come before. Freedom is the prize for those that fought for our America.

“Our America” (5:24)