Superintendent’s Message

Dear Livermore Community,

On Veterans Day, as a community and as a nation, we honor all who have served and who continue to serve in our armed forces. The first Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, marked the end of The Great War. Today, just over a century later, we thank all whose commitment and sacrifice continue to preserve the freedoms and inalienable rights we enjoy as Americans.

I am proud to be the daughter of a U.S. Marine who was stationed at Okinawa, the Philippine Islands, and Camp Pendleton, and the granddaughter of a U.S. Navy Seabee who served in World War II. I know there are many in our community who share that pride - whose loved ones have served or are currently serving in branches of the armed forces. With this special edition of The Grapevine, I would like to add my personal thanks to the members of our district family who are also members of the military. These special individuals serve our country, and, daily, they serve our students.

With deep gratitude,

Kelly Bowers

Kelly Bowers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
President Gerald R. Ford signed into law that November 11th, the anniversary of the signing of the armistice ending World War, would be the annual observance of Veterans Day. On this day, we celebrate and honor all American veterans who have served and who continue to serve our country. Thank you to our district’s veterans.
James "Danny" Dye - Granada High School
Sergeant (E-4) 343rd MSS (Missile Security Squadron) Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, MT
Dates of service: 1986-1990

Renee Hlavsa Hennessy - Livermore High School
Senior Airman/E-4 37th Airlift Squadron with the 81st
Date of Service: 1994 - 1998 (actively served)

Vivian Luchetta - Sunset Elementary School
Staff Sergeant 349th FMS, Travis AFB

Paul Grasseschi - Del Valle High School

Antwan Prior - Livermore High School
82nd Airborne 504th PIR
Head Quarters Battalion

Erik “Bear” Taylor - Del Valle High School
Corporal Fort Lee, VA, Suwon, South Korea and Fort Irwin, CA
Dates of Service: 1996-2000
Photo: Taken on the DMZ (North Korea in background)
David Lowry - Livermore
High School
Lance Corporal
2nd Marine Air Wing
Dates of Service: 1972-1975

Jim Maloney - Livermore
High School Special Education
Sergeant
1st Marine Division, 4th Marine Air Wing
Desert Shield/Desert Storm
1991 (Task Force Ripper)
Dates of Service: 1988 - 1996
Stephen Peters - Livermore High School
Marine Corps from 4/02-12/03 medical retirement

Nola Rechtin - District Health Technician
Sergeant
Field Radio Operator - Okinawa, Japan; El Toro and Tustin air bases
Dates of Service: 1983-1987
Abraham Balatayo -
District Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities
Navy Seabee
Amphibious Construction Unit
Vietnam: 1971

Brett Francois - Granada High School
Executive Administration Division, YN3
Dates of Service: 1990-1994

Kandy Heller-Evans -
Altamont Creek Elementary School
LI3 (Lithographer 3rd Class)
NASKEF-Iceland
Naval Communication Unit-London
CINCLANTFLT-Norfolk
Dates of Service: 1974-1978

Kip Wood - Livermore High School
Nancy Stoyer began hand-making military stoles when her son Adam graduated from Livermore High School in 2015; Adam and four of his classmates had made the choice to join the armed forces and serve our country. What started as a passion project for five graduates has grown over the years to honor over forty graduates from Del Valle, Granada, and Livermore High Schools. Stoyer works with our high school administrators to identify graduates, and she also provides stoles for students at other Tri-Valley high schools, at the request of military recruiters who want the graduates to be honored. Included with the stole is a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution, as a touchstone for the serviceman or servicewoman to hold dear.

"I do this because these young men and women are making a huge commitment to protect and defend our Country and Constitution against all enemies as members of our all-volunteer military. They are writing the ultimate 'blank check,' and I want them to know that it is appreciated and recognized," says Stoyer of her motivation and purpose.

Pictured are stoles with patches from the U.S. Army, Marines, and Navy. Each stole comes with a patch specific to the military branch in which the graduate will serve.
2019 Livermore High School graduate, Joseph Fields, was presented with his stole from Lieutenant Colonel Scott Stell of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Each student will graduate with the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world.

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