

Earlier in the year, my adviser gave me the opportunity to take the lead on a collaboration with our local VFW to cover Veterans Day. The goal of this collaboration was to help connect our local veterans with students and community members on Veterans Day, since it wasn't safe for veterans to visit the schools in person this year. The veterans wanted their stories and perspectives on life that were informed by their military experience heard. With the help of my teacher, Hannah Shapiro, and my co-director, Langston James, we were able to organize and conduct 12 in depth interviews with local veterans. I was lucky enough to be in the room operating the camera for a majority of these interviews and heard the incredible stories the veterans shared along with their thoughts and feelings about Veterans Day. I have never worked on a package that required the amount of time and work that this Veterans project did. I felt personally obligated to ensure that this project's finished product would be at the highest possible quality. This project had the ability to greatly impact our community if executed correctly, so a lot of time was put into adjusting things such as the script or b-roll to continuously improve the package. On top of conducting interviews, gathering b-roll, writing a strong script to guide the audience, and instructing classmates on how to create their individual profiles, we sat down for many weekends and long nights to cut down roughly 6 hours of footage into a 20 minute veterans day special. I am extremely grateful for this experience as it taught me valuable lessons in how to be a strong leader, maintain good organization, and effectively communicate with a team. All of which I believe are essential skills to have in order to be a good journalist.

First semester of this year, EVTV and Eagle Valley's local VFW worked together to try something we had never done before. Due to the circumstances of Covid-19, Sam Elliot, my teacher Hannah Shapiro, and I, were given the opportunity to interview and work with 12 veterans; who were all different walks of life. The goal was to share how veterans view veterans day, as well as what it means to them. Some veterans were older, and had stories about being in the front lines of Vietnam, while others worked on naval ships only 10 years ago. Sam and I

were given the pleasure to meet these veterans and create a large package for Veterans Day. We were in charge of organizing each veterans form and description, operating the cameras during the interviews, creating b-roll of the momento's form their time in service. After we collected each 20-30 minute interview, we cut each amazing story down. The process of editing was the biggest and most challenging we have ever done at EVTV, editing around twelve 20-30 minute interview. We then created a script which would tie the whole package together, creating a strong script was very important in making the project come together. The Veterans Day project was the biggest challenge we have ever faced in EVTV, but because of the great organization and determination that our team showed, it was all worth to see the positive outcome it brought in the community of Eagle Valley, helping people not only understand who the veterans were, but allowing the veterans to let their voices be heard, which was very important to me and the team. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to work on such an amazing project.