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TRIMESTER 1 - VETERANS DAY
DESIGNED BY: LAINA WOOD & ALEAH BETTES

BEAUTIFUL



ALL RISE! As the Boy Scouts hoist the American flag, Cricket Dobransky's (6) great grandfather, Kenneth Semmler who served as a Naval Senior Chief, rises and sheds tears, and Cora Nichols' (7) father, Geoff Nichols, who served in the Army, salutes.

LAND OF THE FREE

To honor our veterans for their service, students and faculty attend ceremony. Story by Laina Wood and Aleah Bettes

"O say can you see...," Annie Erwin (8), Blake Lawrence (8), and Cricket Dobransky (6) sang on the early, frigid morning of November 11. All 1,035 students and staff poured onto the front lawn surrounding the flagpole to honor invited veterans.

Michelle Johnson, seventh grade social studies and leadership instructor, spearheaded the event. "I have a lot of respect for our veterans," Johnson said.

Veterans Day wasn't always a significant celebration at Drake.

"When I first came to Drake, we were not doing a Veterans Day assembly. I had attended one the year before at Arvada West, and I was like, 'We need to, 100 percent, have a Veterans Day assembly,'" Johnson said. "My favorite part was when the elderly man stood up and saluted the flag when his military song

played." The celebration meant a lot to community members as well. Days after the event, Principal Mindi Feir received a letter of thanks from former U.S. Army Staff Sergeant David Brehholz.

"I served at a time when serving in the military was not appreciated, so it is nice to see this change," Brehholz said. "I was particularly honored by all the students and faculty who sat down to talk to me personally about my experiences in the army."

He concluded the letter by saying, "I have had doubts in the past about the future of this great country and the direction we may be going in, but if Drake Middle School is indicative of the caliber of our future leaders, we will be in good hands."



SALUTE. Boy scout members Linus Johnson (7), Kyle Schulthess (7), Jack Hubbard (8) and Brody Barnes (8) salutes the flag after hoisting it. **RISE!** As part of the flag ceremony, singers Cricket Dobransky (6), Annie Erwin (8), and Blake Lawrence (8) perform the national anthem.

AMERICA