

## **Veterans Day Opening Remarks**

Good afternoon and welcome to our Veterans Day assembly.

Today, November 11<sup>th</sup>, is Veterans Day. Veterans Day is observed every year in the United States of America on November 11<sup>th</sup>. On this day we honor the people who have served in the United States Armed Forces which include the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. These people are veterans. Behind me are photographs of veterans that belong to our Freedom Hill community, some from our families and some from our own staff.

Anyone who has or is currently serving our country in the Armed Forces made a commitment to all of us. Our veterans deserve our respect for keeping us safe and preserving our freedoms. We are fortunate to be here in the United States, to be here in the state of Virginia, to be here in Fairfax County, to be here at Freedom Hill Elementary School! Without our veterans, life would look and feel a lot different than it does today.

Last Friday we celebrated International Day and our cultural diversity made up of over 25 countries. Today, however, we celebrate the sacrifices that so many have made to make this country, the United States of America, the land of the free. You are

free to come to school, to learn, and to be whatever we want to be when you grow up. Those are your rights in this great country. Our veterans deserve our respect today, tomorrow, and always. God bless the United States of America!

We are fortunate to have many honored guests with us today. If you are a veteran or active military, please stand to be recognized. Thank you for being with us today and, most importantly, your service!

At this time I would like to introduce our keynote speaker. He is the son of our very own Mrs. Hassinger. He is currently serving in the United States Air Force as the Director of Operations, 71<sup>st</sup> Fighter Training Squadron. He received special permission to leave the Langley Air Force Base in Hampton Virginia to be with us today. Please give a warm Freedom Hill welcome to Lieutenant Colonel Eric “Dempsey” Hassinger!

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