

**Floyd Central High School
Veterans Day Assembly
November 11, 2011**

M.C.: FCHS Student Lauren McNeeley

Miss McNeeley shared words from President Obama's 2010 Veterans Day proclamation, with personalization specific to FCHS staff and the Assembly guest speaker.

On Veterans Day, we come together to pay tribute to the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. Americans commemorate the patriots who have risked their lives to preserve the liberty of our Nation, the families who support them, and the heroes no longer with us. It is not our weapons or our technology that make us the most advanced military in the world; it is the unparalleled spirit, skill, and devotion of our troops. As we honor our veterans, let our words and our actions strengthen the bond between a Nation and its warriors.

In a line of valor stretching back more than 235 years, veterans have charged into harm's way, often making the ultimate sacrifice, to protect the freedoms that bless America. Whether Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard, they rank among our Nation's finest citizens, and they have shown the heights to which Americans can rise when inspired to do so. Our courageous troops serving around the globe today have earned their place alongside previous generations of great Americans, serving selflessly, tour after tour, in conflicts over the past decade.

Both my father and my great grandfather served in the military, and later went on to teach young people, hoping to enhance the citizenry of this great nation. They are not alone. Long after leaving the uniform behind, countless veterans continue to serve as public servants and mentors, parents and community leaders. They have added proud chapters to the story of America, not only on the battlefield, but also in communities from coast to coast. They have built and shaped our Nation, and it is our solemn promise to support our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen as they return to their homes and families.

America's veterans have not watched over her shores or her citizens for public recognition, fanfare, or parades. They have preserved our way of life with unwavering patriotism and quiet courage, and ours is a debt of honor to care for them and their families. These obligations do not end after their time of service, and we must fulfill our sacred trust to care for our veterans after they retire their uniforms.

As a grateful Nation, we are humbled by the sacrifices rendered by our service members and their families out of the deepest sense of service and love of country. On Veterans Day, let us remember our solemn obligations to our veterans, and recommit to upholding the enduring principles that our country lives for, and that our fellow citizens have fought and died for.

"Now we will honor those members of the Floyd Central staff who served their country as members of the Armed Services. Please hold your applause until the end."

"You just watched a video showcasing Floyd Central's veterans, the teachers and staff members who served in uniform. Now let us welcome another veteran with an FC connection. The father of a sophomore here at FC, our keynote speaker this afternoon is a successful business executive, serving as chief operating officer for Key Electronics. But 20 years ago, he served in Operation Desert Storm, earning two Bronze Stars, for valor and for distinguished leadership in combat. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to introduce Mr. Larry Porter."

We want to thank Mr. Porter for being with us here today. Before we end this ceremony, we need to show our appreciation to one more group of veterans: those who are no longer with us. Please join us in a moment of silence as we remember and show our gratitude to those who gave the last full measure. In that moment, perhaps you will think about your life as an American. Perhaps there is a Veteran in your family... perhaps you have a teacher who is a Veteran. No matter what the connection, we are all connected as Americans and must understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by our military.