

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM SEMINAR

The Veterans in the Classroom program was developed by the Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council, in order to implement Florida Statute 233.061, Section 2, in the Flagler County School District.

The Statute is excerpted as follows:

Section 2: Members of the instructional staff of the public schools, subject to the rules and regulations of the commissioner, the state board, and the school board, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

Sub Section 2: In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that Veterans have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans when practical.

The veterans who volunteer will carry out this program happily because of the immense potential for good that can derive from their doing so. It is a way for teachers, Veterans, and students to share the rich memories that Veterans have kept in their hearts. America's Military Veterans are walking and talking history lessons. Veterans' participation in classrooms can bring a touch of reality that will bring history home to our students.

VETERANS IN CLASSROOM

Sponsored by the FLAGLER COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL
In cooperation with the FLAGLER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

OBJECTIVE:

The program is designed to better acquaint the public, parochial and private school students in relating personal experiences of Military Veterans while they went in the Military Service of the United States of America.

The program is established in support of Florida Statue 233.061 (Required Instruction).

DISCUSSION:

In order to conduct the program in an orderly and effective manner, several factors are noted.

1. It is necessary and most desirable to gain the confidence and cooperation of the School Administration, the Principals and teachers.
2. Volunteers from the Veterans community must be enlisted to participate and briefed as to their duties and responsibilities. Veteran's volunteering to visit classrooms need not be combat veterans in order to participate in the program.
3. A managed system of documentation must be provided to meet the Teacher request and to coordinate the Veterans visits.
4. A method must be developed to contact the teachers in each school. This can be done through the Principals, Vice Principals, Curriculum Specialists or any group that meets together on a periodic schedule. Information and documentation can be distributed at such a meeting.
5. School visit will be conducted from October 1 to November 11 and from April 1 to May 31.
6. Input and Report forms are developed for computer database reporting and for program review purposes. Forms are as follows:
 - a. Veterans Application (to be submitted by Veterans who will participate)
 - b. Classroom Speaker Request (the form teacher will use to request Veterans visits)
 - c. Veterans Evaluation Sheet
 - d. Classroom Evaluation

7. Other lists will prepared form the data collected (i.e.: List of Veterans Speakers, Scheduled or visits, Participating School and number of request, List of Veteran organizations participating).

PROCEDURE:

1. Veterans' acquisition - Veteran recruiting for the program will be conducted by contact with all Flagler County Veterans Organizations. News articles in County papers will also be prepared. Applications will be distributed as widely as possible. One collection point will be established and a database of volunteers will be prepared.
2. Veterans' indoctrination seminars will be conducted for all volunteers as a pre-requisite for assignment to a classroom session.
3. A Veterans Caller List will be prepared to provide people who will call Veterans for their assignments.
4. A Classroom Speaker Request Form will be used by the Teacher to obtain a Veteran at a specified time.
5. Veterans will be called and assigned prior to the start of the program period.
6. Teachers will be requested to provide an Evaluation sheet after the presentation.
7. Veterans will be requested to provide a Classroom Evaluation after the presentation.

The Veterans should be prepared to give information such as the following:

- Dates of any war or action that will be discussed.
- Statistics, losses of US forces, etc.
- What prompted the US involvement?
- Other countries involved on our side.
- Countries opposing the US.
- What was life like during that period of time?
- What did the Veteran personally sacrifice?
- Why do/should we observe Veterans'/Memorial Day?
- Other information as requested by the teacher.

Questions that a Veterans may be asked:

- What is a Veteran?
- Which service were you in? How many years?
- What was your job, rank, rate? How many medals did you get?
- What countries did you go to?
- Did you kill anyone? How many?
- Were you in combat? Were you wounded?
- What does P.O.W. and M.I.A. stand for? Were you a P.O.W.?
- Why do soldiers do heroic acts?
- What is Patriotism?
- Why do we observe Veterans' Day/Memorial Day?
- Why did you join the service?
- What is it like in the Army, Navy?

What props a Veteran may bring to school:

- If you are to talk about the flag, make sure one is present.
- Bring any souvenirs, photos, etc. that will enhance the program.
- Be sure that trophies are legal, e.g.: no weapon or replicas.
- Maps may be helpful to the students' understanding.
- Discuss what props would be helpful with the teacher prior to visiting

VETERANS CLASSROOM SPEAKER REQUEST

A Veterans-in-the-Classroom program for all Flagler County Schools, public and private, is established to increase youth awareness of the freedoms preserved by the sacrifices of veterans and their fallen comrades. Visits will take place from October 1 to November 11 and from April 1 to May 31. If you wish to have a veteran visit your classroom, please fill in and submit this form. **Please use a separate form for each class visit request.**

Please provide a Veteran Classroom Speaker on the following date_____

Grade(s)_____ Class Time _____

School_____ Room No._____

School Address_____

School Office Phone_____