

As Veterans Day approaches, I find myself reflecting deeply on the significance of this day—not only as a proud retired military officer but as someone who grew up in a military family and is the father of two adult children who grew up as military dependents. My wife and I both know what it means to live a life shaped by service, and we are incredibly grateful for the freedoms we enjoy, thanks to the sacrifices of those who have worn our nation’s uniform.

At Bay District Schools, we are honored to have over 200 veterans serving our community as teachers, support staff, and administrators. These dedicated men and women have transitioned from protecting our nation to nurturing and educating the next generation. I want to publicly thank them for their continued service. Their commitment to our students is a testament to the values of honor, duty, and service they lived during their military careers, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them as part of our BDS Team of Teams.

As we prepare for Veterans Day, we must teach our children why this day matters. Veterans Day is more than a day off from school—it’s a chance to honor those who have served and sacrificed for our country. I believe it’s our responsibility to help our students understand this day’s significance and instill in them a deep respect for the men and women who have defended our freedoms and sacrificed greatly for our Nation.

Many of our high schools, particularly our JROTC programs and bands, will be doing their part to honor veterans by participating in parades and other celebrations across our community. These students not only represent our district with pride but also demonstrate the values of patriotism and respect for our veterans. I encourage families to attend these events and show support for both our students and our veterans.

If you're looking for ways to teach your children about the importance of Veterans Day, here are a few resources that might help:

1. **The Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Day page** at <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day> provides historical information and educational materials explaining why we observe Veterans Day.
2. **Veterans Day for kids is another fantastic outreach from the Wounded Warrior Project.** You can review their informational materials at <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/veterans-day-for-kids>

Teaching our children to honor and respect veterans is a lesson in gratitude and appreciation, and it’s a lesson they will carry with them throughout their lives. This Veterans Day, I encourage all of us—students, staff, and families alike—to take a moment to thank those who have served and to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy because of their bravery and sacrifice.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to put the “A” back in Bay, and let’s all do our part to make this Veterans Day a meaningful and educational experience for our children.

Please thank ALL of these BDS veterans for their service to our country and our community. While there may be even more veterans working in our district, these employees have identified themselves to us as veterans. We apologize if some veterans are left off this list accidentally because we're unaware of their service.

<i>ADKINS, JEFFERY</i>	<i>FULLER, DAN</i>	<i>MCGINNIS, DEREK</i>	<i>SIMMONS, JAMES</i>
<i>ALLEN, TWANA</i>	<i>GALL, CHAD</i>	<i>MCKIBBIN, ROBERT</i>	<i>SIMS, CHERISSE</i>
<i>AMBROZAITIS, CHERYL</i>	<i>GALL, MARGOT</i>	<i>MCMILLAN, JESSICA</i>	<i>SLAUGHTER, CODY</i>
<i>ANDERSON, CHADWICK</i>	<i>GEHRKEN, MARC</i>	<i>MCNALLY, PETER</i>	<i>SMITH, JOSEPH</i>
<i>ANDERSON, LARRY</i>	<i>GLENNON, CHERYL</i>	<i>MCQUEEN, MARK</i>	<i>SMITH, MELISSA</i>
<i>AVERILL, THOMAS</i>	<i>GODBER, JOEL</i>	<i>MELLIES, DAVID</i>	<i>SNYDER, JANET</i>
<i>BARNES, CARLTON</i>	<i>GOSS, ANDRE</i>	<i>MEREDITH, JAMES</i>	<i>SNYDER, JOANNE</i>
<i>BARTON, TEJAY</i>	<i>GRAY, AMY</i>	<i>MESSER, BENJAMIN</i>	<i>SOLOTS, RICHARD</i>
<i>BASS, PATRICK</i>	<i>GROGAN, ROBERT</i>	<i>MILLER, DEANNA</i>	<i>SPRING, JAMES</i>
<i>BECK, ROBERT</i>	<i>GUILFORD, WILLIAM</i>	<i>MILLS, EDWIN</i>	<i>STANDIFER, TANYA</i>
<i>BLAIR, ROBERT</i>	<i>HAGAN, DAVID</i>	<i>MIMS, MICHAEL</i>	<i>STEPHENS, ELIZABETH</i>
<i>BOGGESS, WARREN</i>	<i>HALL, COY</i>	<i>MODGLIN, JENNIFER</i>	<i>STILLWAGON, JOSHUA</i>
<i>BOYD, ALVIN</i>	<i>HARRIS, PAMELA</i>	<i>MONNIER, MEGAN</i>	<i>SULLIVAN, KIERNAN</i>
<i>BOYETTE, SAVANNAH</i>	<i>HENNESSY, CASEY</i>	<i>MONROE, ROY</i>	<i>SUNDSTROM, KRISTI</i>
<i>BROWN, DENISE</i>	<i>HERRIGES, MELANIE</i>	<i>MONTERO-MARRERO, ANA</i>	<i>SWEET, VIRGINIA</i>
<i>BROWN, RAYKETHA</i>	<i>HICKS, KENNETH</i>	<i>MONTOYA, GARY</i>	<i>TARQUINIO, JAMES</i>
<i>BURRIS, CHERYL</i>	<i>HITZEMAN, ISABELLE</i>	<i>MORGAN, JENNIFER</i>	<i>TAYLOR, ROBERT</i>

<i>CALLIER, ROBERT</i>	<i>HOFFMAN, DONNA</i>	<i>MURRELL, LAURA</i>	<i>THERIOT, CYNTHIA</i>
<i>CALTON, NIKKI</i>	<i>HOLT, WILLIAM</i>	<i>NELSON, GREGORY</i>	<i>THIBAUT, JOSEPH</i>
<i>CAMPBELL, JENNIFER</i>	<i>HOUSTON, JAMES</i>	<i>NELSON, HELEN</i>	<i>THOMPSON, JESSICA</i>
<i>CAMPBELL, MICHAEL</i>	<i>HUDGINS, BRIAN</i>	<i>OLDS, DASHOAN</i>	<i>THOMPSON, KIMBERLY</i>
<i>CARPENTER, RANDALL</i>	<i>ISLER, JESSICA</i>	<i>OQUENDO, GABRIELLE</i>	<i>TINDELL, SAMANTHA</i>
<i>CARTER, MICHAEL</i>	<i>IVEY, JENNIFER</i>	<i>PAKENHAM, MELISSA</i>	<i>TOBIN, GREG</i>
<i>CECCHINI, LAWRENCE</i>	<i>JOHNSON, CARL</i>	<i>PAPPAS, GEORGE</i>	<i>TROUPE WARD, CYNTHIA</i>
<i>CHAMBERS, JAMES</i>	<i>JOHNSON, KYLE</i>	<i>PARHAM, KAREN</i>	<i>UNDERWOOD, ALEXIS</i>
<i>CHOATE, JAMES</i>	<i>JONES, ANDREA</i>	<i>PARKER, SHELLA</i>	<i>URBANSKI, ROBERT</i>
<i>CHRISTODOULOU, ERIC</i>	<i>JONES, JEREMY</i>	<i>PAYNE, GAIL</i>	<i>VINSON, DALE</i>
<i>CHRIVIA, JAMES</i>	<i>JONES, LISA</i>	<i>PAYNE, VICKY</i>	<i>WALKER, DILMA</i>
<i>COBB, ERIK</i>	<i>KENNEDY, BART</i>	<i>PEPPER, GLENN</i>	<i>WALKER, KEVIN</i>
<i>COMEAU, VALERIE</i>	<i>KING, BRIDGETT</i>	<i>PERKINS, MAX</i>	<i>WARD, MICHAEL</i>
<i>CORLEY, JERRY</i>	<i>KMIEC, LEAH</i>	<i>PETTIS, DAVID</i>	<i>WARING, BENJAMIN</i>
<i>COUPE', JAMES</i>	<i>LABERDESQUE, SHEILA</i>	<i>PIERCE, BRIAN</i>	<i>WASHINGTON, EDWARD</i>
<i>COWAN, TERESA</i>	<i>LACKEY, CLIFFORD</i>	<i>POLLARD, WILLIE</i>	<i>WEATHERLY, WILLIAM</i>
<i>CRUZ-SORIA, RODOLFO</i>	<i>LAFOUNTAIN, JEREMIAH</i>	<i>RAPLEE, NICOLAS</i>	<i>WEBB, CHERYL</i>
<i>CURTIS, PHILLIP</i>	<i>LANE, RODNEY</i>	<i>REDING, VICKI</i>	<i>WEISS, MILFRED</i>
<i>DASHIELL, RICHARD</i>	<i>LEGG, JAMES</i>	<i>REINFELD, GARY</i>	<i>WELCH, BARBARA</i>
<i>DAVIS, STEVEN</i>	<i>LEMOND, BONNIE</i>	<i>RHEA, LANCE</i>	<i>WELLS, MARY</i>

<i>DIXON, CHRISTOPHER</i>	<i>LOZON, PENNY</i>	<i>RISINGER, HEATHER</i>	<i>WEST, RYAN</i>
<i>DOBBS, ROBERT</i>	<i>LUNDY, SIDNEY</i>	<i>RIVERS, RICKEY</i>	<i>WHITAKER, JOANNA</i>
<i>DOCKERY, LARRY</i>	<i>LYMANGROVER, JESSICA</i>	<i>ROBERTS, IVAN</i>	<i>WHITE, KYLE</i>
<i>DOLAN, RENDELL</i>	<i>LYNCH, JENNY</i>	<i>ROBERTS, KEITH</i>	<i>WIGGS, CHRISTAL</i>
<i>EL-FAR, KAOTHAR</i>	<i>LYON, GREGORY</i>	<i>ROBINSON, DEREK</i>	<i>WILKES, DARRYN</i>
<i>ERICKSON, TIFFANY</i>	<i>MABARDY, JOHN</i>	<i>ROLLINS, JAMES</i>	<i>WILLIAMS, CYNTHIA</i>
<i>EZELL, OSCAR</i>	<i>MABIUS, TIMOTHY</i>	<i>ROWELL, KYLE</i>	<i>WILLIAMS, PAUL</i>
<i>FARMER, JACQUELINE</i>	<i>MALLOY, DARIN</i>	<i>RULE, YVONNE</i>	<i>WILLIAMS, ROBERT</i>
<i>FINCH, BRANDON</i>	<i>MANNING, JABBAR</i>	<i>SAMUEL, ZABEDA</i>	<i>WILLIAMS, TROY</i>
<i>FLOYD, JUSTIN</i>	<i>MASON, TIMOTHY</i>	<i>SCHLEISMAN, CRYSTAL</i>	<i>WILLIS, PAUL</i>
<i>FOOTE, RONALD</i>	<i>MAXHIMER, MERLE</i>	<i>SELLERS, DANNY</i>	<i>WISE, JENNIFER</i>
<i>FRANKLIN, JOHN</i>	<i>MAY, JEREMY</i>	<i>SHEPHERD, KRISTINA</i>	<i>WOOD, TRISHA</i>
			<i>WOODWORTH, JOHN</i>
			<i>WYZARD, CHARLES</i>