

To the MHS Community – A thank you from Sandy Kreps

Dear Monroe High School Community:

On Monday, September 14, 2015, a staff member made me aware of the overwhelming activity on our Face Book page for the posting of the 9/11 all school tribute for Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.

I am pleased that so many see the importance of this tribute, and what so many sacrificed for us. Those of you who forwarded the tribute on are fulfilling one of the hopes of Remembrance Day, the opportunity to give back.

I would like to acknowledge those who help make this tribute meaningful and influential for themselves and for others.

To the Monroe High School Students: One of your classmates told his mom that he has never heard MHS as quiet and reverent as when the 9/11 all-school tribute was given. Also, a staff member who was supervising 50 of you in the MHS learning commons said she could have heard a pin drop. I was so proud of you during the MHS Military Tribute Night game and then to see your picture the next morning in the Monroe News! You are adults who demonstrate that you understand and appreciate sacrifice, who have respect for others, and who are capable of leading our country.

To the Parents of MHS students: I know there are days you wonder, “What is my child thinking?” or “Do they really understand sacrifice and service?” From what we witnessed at MHS on 9/11/15 and at Military Tribute Night, they do understand. Along the way, you have instilled in them a respect for others and a courage to stand up for what they believe that will serve them and our country well. A very special thank you to the parents who helped make MHS Military Tribute Night possible.

To the MHS Staff: You were encouraged to take a few moments in each of your classes to discuss what happened on 9/11, how it impacted our world, and where you were at when you first heard. No two teachers had the same story and it brought your world to the world of your students. By having those discussions throughout the day, it helped provide a comprehensive understanding of the significance of 9/11, Patriots Day and the National Day of Service and Remembrance. It also set a tone of understanding and appreciation for the 9/11 all school remembrance and for Military Tribute Night.

To MHS Facebook Friends: Your enthusiasm for this tribute and sharing it with others is a strong sign that patriotism is alive and well.

Acknowledgement of David P. Vensel: Mr. Vensel, principal of Jefferson High School, wrote the original tribute that I revised for MHS. His father, Paul Vensel, Navy-USS Chester, and my father, Army Staff Sergeant Melvin Georgopoulos, both served in WW II. As educators, colleagues, and friends, Mr. Vensel and I share a deep respect and love for our country and for our veterans.

Acknowledgement of Ray Kisonas from the Monroe News: Mr. Kisonas assisted Mr. Vensel with the research for the tribute so all families in Monroe County that have lost a military family member since 9/11 were remembered.

To all of you, thank you for partnering with us to help our community remember.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kreps

MHS Principal