



Jeff Reystacho, center, takes part in the Veterans Walk of Honor with Charlie and Bailey Bowman at Cheyenne Elementary School. Reystacho, who served in the U.S. Navy, was among the 20 veterans who attended the event.

Photo by Deb Jacques

Cheyenne hosts first Veterans Walk of Honor

By: Alex Szwarc | Macomb Township Chronicle | Published November 18, 2019



Cheyenne Elementary first grader Mary Post walks with her mother, Air Force Senior Airman Amanda Post, at the school's first Walk of Honor on Nov. 11.

Photo by Deb Jacques

MACOMB TOWNSHIP — The first snowstorm of the season didn't stop local veterans from taking part in a special event.

This Veterans Day, Nov. 11, over 20 veterans with family members who attend Cheyenne Elementary School in Macomb Township participated in the school's first Veterans Walk of Honor.

"A bunch of teachers got together and thought of doing something more, for the veterans to be in a Walk of Honor," Cheyenne Principal Mark Johnson said.

The school already includes a Wall of Honor where students and families add photos and names of those who are serving or have served in the military. The photos remain on display at the school all month long. This is the fourth year for the Wall of Honor.

David Clark's great-grandson Gianni Buonbrisco attends the school.

"The recognition means a lot because when I got out of the service, we didn't get any recognition in the '60s," Clark said. "Now, it's great."

Clark, of Macomb Township, served in the Marines during the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1969. He spent over a year in Vietnam, mainly stationed near the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in Dong Ha.

"We appreciate our veterans and the sacrifices they have made for our country and our freedoms," Johnson said. "We want to take this opportunity to honor the men and women who have so bravely served or are serving our country in the U.S. military."

Around 30 minutes prior to the walk, teachers went over lessons with students on what veterans and the military do for America.

"Our military not only fight for our freedom, but also help during natural disasters and things of that nature," Johnson said. "They help us when we're in need as well. It's important to recognize our community members who have served us and continued to serve. It's important that our school embody that."

Tom Bell, of Clinton Township, walked with his granddaughter, Cheyenne third grader Elise Kowalkowski.

"It's nice that the children are doing this," he said. "They have to learn more of our history. I was taught so much history when I was growing up, and it was an honor to serve."

Bell was in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1967 to 1970. He was in Vietnam for one year, near Saigon.

"When I went to work, it was always great to work with other veterans because they always watch your back," he said.

Cheyenne Elementary first grader Mary Post walked with her mother, Air Force Senior Airman Amanda Post, who worked at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township for nine years, working on A-10s. Amanda Post also served in the Army for three years.

The walk was led by Boy Scouts Pack 149, from Cheyenne, and was followed by a silent dismissal.