

## Veteran's Day Celebrations in Santa Fe ISD.....

As we celebrate our veterans on this Veterans' Day 2018, recent events have made us realize what we have as Americans, and the freedoms we enjoy. On November 11, 2018, we recognize those who have protected and continue to protect our way of life.

Today, in District ceremonies on our campuses our students and guest presenters paid honor to our veterans through spoken word, music, video and song. They expressed the importance of what it means to be an American. We know that without our Veterans, there would be no "land of the free."

Devin Belluomini, a former 2015 SFHS graduate and current Airmen First Class with the United States Air Force Presidential Honor Guard, addressed our junior high and high school students, visiting Veterans and their families and staff. He spoke of the courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty, integrity and sacrifice for those who have served in the military. He shared that he held this town very close to his heart for all it had done for him. He stated that he was proud to be from a community that stood so strong in the midst of such tragedy.

During his high school presentation, Devin spoke about the unforgettable honor bestowed upon him in June and what it meant to him to place the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in memory of the eight students and two teachers who had lost their lives on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and presented Dr. Leigh Wall, Superintendent of Schools and Rachel Blundell, SFHS Principal with a flag that can be encased and displayed in remembrance of the courageous students and teachers of May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Students from elementary to high school and guest presenters shared why we celebrate this day. We know that without our Veterans, there would be no "land of the free." Without our veterans, we wouldn't be where we are today. Without their continued service, we won't be able to reach where we could be tomorrow. We are forever indebted to those men and women and will never forget them.

And without those currently fighting the War on Terrorism, we would be living in constant fear or simply, without freedom. *All* of our veterans have protected our democracy, our freedom, and our way of life. We honor and thank them on Veteran's day; however, we must continue to honor them. They have given us the chance to live in freedom today and an opportunity to look forward to tomorrow. They have given us every day, and they have protected every freedom. We must honor them every day, in every way that we can!