

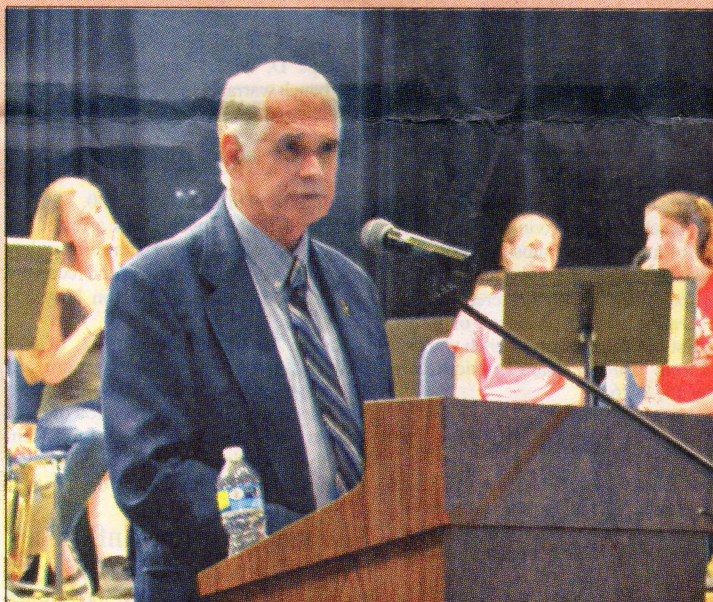
MEMORIAL DAY 2016

SOME GAVE ALL...



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

ABOVE: Members of the Korean War Veterans Color Guard hold their flags aloft as students from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry sing behind them. BELOW: Army General (Ret.) Reginald Centracchio implores students to take time to thank veterans for securing their freedom at the event.



Feinstein students pay homage to veterans before holiday weekend

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COVENTRY — The Salute to Veterans continued this year with patriotic music selections and stories at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School last week where family, school officials and decorated, retired members of the military honored those veterans still with us and those who gave their lives in the service of the nation.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi thanked the men and women who serve in the armed forces.

“My dad, who is 86 years old, fought in Korea and told me that that war, like all wars was cold, heartless and ugly,” Lisi said, “but he also says that it was worth it. For every veteran here today, thank you for stepping up instead of stepping back. Thank you for placing yourself between us and the dangers of the world and thank you

See FEINSTEIN, Page A-3

Feinstein students learn what it means to be a vet

Continued from Page A-1

for delaying plans for marriage, schooling, children or a host of other opportunities because you had to serve. Thank you to your spouses who sometimes found themselves living lonely lives, and thank you to your parent and guardians who may have suffered through some difficult times worrying about your safety.”

Maj. General (Ret.) Reginald Centracchio of the Rhode Island National Guard, said

Memorial Day wasn't always Memorial Day, but began in 1864 during the Civil War and was called Decoration Day.

“From time to time, the war would stop because there were casualties on both sides and men had to bury their dead,” he said. “People would come out of their homes and decorate each grave, regardless of the side they were on.”

Centracchio said it became a national observance day and then later, Memorial Day.

According to the retired Gen-

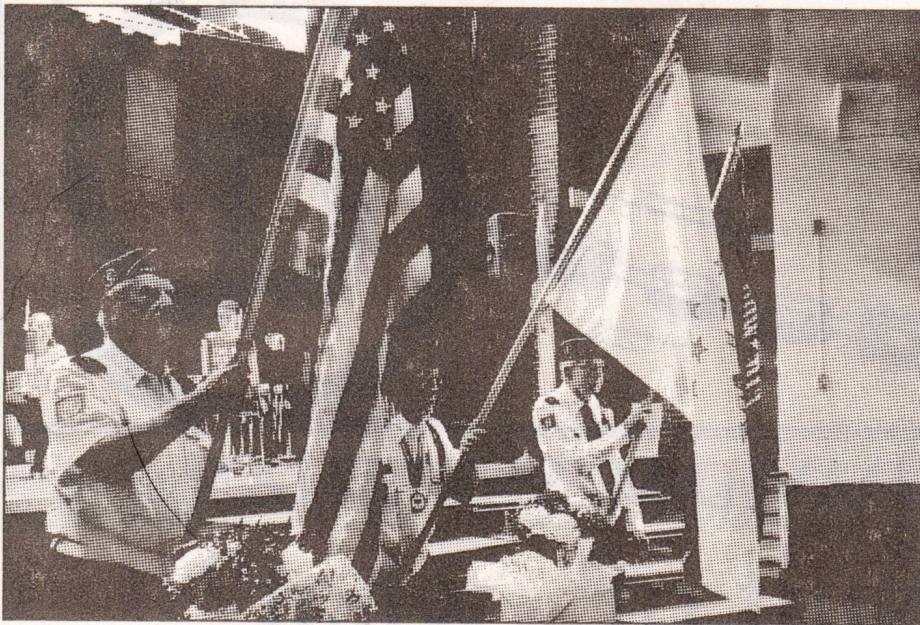
eral, about 1,100 World War II veterans pass away each day.

He asked each person there to reach out to someone who served that they may know and ask to hear their stories.

“Write down what they tell you and they're worth hearing and writing down,” he said, “and, the next time you see a veteran, go up to him or her and give them a big hug because it lets them know you care.”

Patriotic selections were performed by the ASFMS band and select chorus including “First Suite for Military Band,” “Summons of Heroes,” and “Barrier Reef.”

Charles Blanchette, social studies teacher and history buff, said many from Coventry served and lost their lives for their country throughout its history, including General Nathanael Greene, Corp. Jonathan Briggs, members of the Cornell family, the Rice brothers, the Peltier brothers, Fredrick Peltier Jr., Marine Sgt. Walter Clarke, Dennis St. Amand, Edward Streker, Sgt. Richard Ferguson and Marine Cpl. Holly Charette among a host of others.



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Color Guard members Bill Kennedy, Sy Jeri and Joe Meunier at last week's event at Feinstein Middle School.