

A special day to express thanks

To the Editor:

It was standing room only at Christ Church Parish Hall on Veterans Day last Friday as Father Stuart and the ladies of Christ Church welcomed a joyous gathering of area veterans. It was really a special day of expressing love and gratitude for the dedication and service of vets who were honored with a delicious home cooked dinner and program hosted by the Episcopal Women of Christ Church. The ladies cooked and served the delicious meal to all attending members from all the branches of service: the US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Marine Corps, and US Coast Guard.

Special tables honored the WWII veterans from Middlesex County, and a small table with no chairs symbolized the 80,000 soldiers missing in action since WWI. Dessert was provided by Judy Wade of Virginia Street Cafe in memory of her father who served during WWII. Super VIP for the event, Norton Hurd of Deltaville, a WWII vet, was the county's oldest attending veteran, having turned 100 this year. There was a sprinkling of women vets at the event.

The group said the Pledge of Allegiance with great passion and sang the National Anthem, and you can be sure that no one in that illustrious group "took a knee" (disrespected) in front of our mighty and beloved flag. It was an especially emotional time when veterans from all military units joined together in remembering those fallen in action from various wars, and "Taps" was played.

Admiral Bruce Cargill, USN, one-time Commanding Officer on the USS Kennedy, spoke of his growing concern in the shocking depletion of the nation's military forces during the last few years and his hope that Congress would see to it under the Trump Administration that the nation's military would be returned to past strength. He urged concerned citizens to contact Rep. Rob Wittman on his website to express this need.

As a special tribute to veterans, students from the Christchurch School Cantorion under the direction of Mark Parsons sang several songs in celebration of the day. It did not escape anyone's notice that many vets at the luncheon that had fought in the Korean War and Vietnam War in the past were now being entertained by children from China, Vietnam and Korea, presently students at Christchurch School. It was an emotional realization as the audience reflected on this and the universal hope for peace in this world. It is good to realize, in spite of warfare and suffering of the past, yesterday's enemies are today's good friends.

Thank you, all veterans, and long live our military!

**Mary Wakefield Buxton
Urbanna**