

Five Local High School Students to Honor Nation's Veterans with Twelve-Hour Ceremony

“It's the least we can do”

South Bend, Indiana (November 5, 2009) – A group of local high school students won't get in any trouble for skipping school this Veterans Day. In fact, they'll be congratulated.

Instead of studying English or Algebra, five Clay High School students will stand guard outside the region's only Military Honor Park from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to honor all the men and women who have fought for our freedom.

The students are commanders of the Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard, a military program grounded in Air Force core values and a curriculum that emphasizes the Air Force heritage and traditions including the development of flight, applied flight sciences, military aerospace policies and space exploration.

Cadet 1st Lieutenant Robert Huffman, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Erich Goen, Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Zach Alfery, Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Chris Meehan and Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Joshua Meyers will perform the Changing of the Guard ceremony for twelve hours on Veterans Day – rain, snow or shine.

The Changing of the Guard is a ceremony performed twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year at the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. During the ceremony, Sentinels guard the Tomb of the Unknowns, a monument dedicated to American service men and women who have fallen in the line of duty without being identified.

“Most people our age don't realize what the veterans of our country went through or what their service means to our lives and our future,” said Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Zach Alfery, a junior at Clay High School. “We're doing this to show respect for all veterans, past, present and future. It's the least we can do.”

On Tuesday, November 10, the five students will meet at the home of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Erich Goen, where they will each receive military-style haircuts in preparation for the Changing of the Guard ceremony on Veteran's Day at the Military Honor Park.

“It's amazing to me that these young men will stand guard out here for twelve hours to honor our nation's veterans,” said George Murat, Director and co-founder of the Military Honor Park. “This shows incredible character and class, and we can all learn something from them.”

The Military Honor Park was established in 1995 to recognize, acknowledge and pay tribute to Michiana area veterans from all wars and each of the five military service branches, whether living or deceased. Built entirely with private donations and volunteer-operated, the Military Honor Park sits on four acres in front of the Michiana Regional Airport, and features restored military collectibles including a T-33 jet plane and a Twin 3-inch Gun, as well as a museum that exhibits items of military interest dating back to the Revolutionary War.

As a member of the media, you are invited to join the students at [address removed] from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as they receive their haircuts and prepare for their ceremony on Veterans Day. Each student is available for media comment regarding their desire to honor the veterans of this nation, the significance of the Changing of the Guard ceremony, and what it means to be a member of the AFJROTC.

Press Contact

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Phone

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[Download high-resolution images of the five AFJROTC students](#)

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