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MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

### Local veterans gathered at Siuslaw High School for the Veterans Day Assembly

#### VETERANS from page 1A

The presence of active duty military was evident as U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River presented the colors. Officer in Charge Jay Nilles also attended.

The coordinator of the event, Siuslaw leadership student Cate Waggoner, greeted her fellow students, staff and the honorees. She thanked them for their attendance and enthusiasm.

Wayne Sharpe, a veteran and on-air personality from KCST/KCFM Coast Radio, introduced each veteran by name and later spoke of the significance of the assembly.

"It's great that Siuslaw High School recognizes our local veterans. The students have been great today and Cate has done a great job putting this together," Sharpe said. "It's really important to recognize the folks who came before us to ensure the freedom we all enjoy."

This was followed by a rendition of the National Anthem played by John

Stone. Both Florence Mayor Joe Henry and Dunes City Mayor Robert Forsythe were on hand, as were many family members of the veterans being honored.

Following the presentation of colors came remarks from Senior Chief Ben Snider, officer in charge of Coast Guard Station Morrow Bay; Ryan Denning, U.S. Marine Corps; Tim Sapp, U.S. Army; and Alex Skarlatos, U.S. Army National Guard. Each speaker related their appreciation for the service of not only those veterans present, but all those who have served this country.

"I am so pleased with today's event and ceremony. It was special seeing everything turn out," Waggoner said. "The turnout was great, and we had close to 40 veterans attend. The students were respectful and enthusiastic. I had many classmates come up to me throughout the day and say how moved they

were. ... A big thank you to each of the speakers. It was such an honor to be a part of this and I'm looking forward to doing it next year."

Jim Swantz, a leader in the local veteran community, said he also was pleased at the effort of the students to show their appreciation for local vets.

"I think it's really important that the younger generations know our history and what many of the vets here have gone through. It's getting so there are fewer and fewer of us around and it is nice to be recognized," Swantz said. "I just got back from the Honor Flight and when you go to all the monuments and memorials it really hits you how much these guys gave to their country."

Florence's Veterans Day celebrations continued on Thursday, Nov. 11, with the Veterans Honor Cruise and other events throughout the day. Read more about those in the next edition of the *Siuslaw News*.

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