

## LETTERS

### **Thanks, Downers Grove North, for honoring our veterans**

To the editor:

On Friday, Nov. 6, I attended Downers Grove North High's annual Veterans Day event, "Honoring All Who Served."

This memorial celebration promotes veteran and student participation and has been ongoing for about 12 years. "Honoring All Who Served" encompasses all veterans, including those who may not have been involved in a declared conflict and those who served in wartime. Veterans go to assigned classrooms and relate their service experiences to the students who are very courteous, attentive and respectful.

This year's featured speaker was a female Navy Airman who was injured during a hurricane and became a quadriplegic. Her recovery was at Hines Veterans Hospital.

In 2014, the featured speaker, an Army captain who served in Vietnam for a year, shared many of his battle experiences with the students.

The featured speaker in 2013 was a female Army lieutenant who was the first woman to ever lose a limb in active conflict. Her service dog was a big attraction.

This annual program consists of presenting the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, "The Star-Spangled Banner," a moment of silent prayer, taps, retiring the colors, and student participation in various portions of the program. The North High band and choral groups provide excellent music.

This year, an Honor Flight Chicago representative thanked the North High student body for raising \$10,000 to help fly WWII veterans to Washington, D.C., for the day.

I want to offer my deep appreciation to the staff and the students of North High for supporting this meaningful Veterans Day event.

**John Mochel**  
Downers Grove