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## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Kimberly Students Learned About the Vietnam War from Local Veterans

**Kimberly, Wis. – April 23, 2019** – Students at [Kimberly High School \(KHS\)](#) were able to learn a history lesson about the Vietnam War from veterans who experienced it firsthand. [Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 351 - Appleton](#) brought their “Reflections of Vietnam” traveling educational outreach program to the school on April 12, 2019.

The veteran’s program has two parts: a large display of artifacts and a speaking program. The goal of the program is for the veterans to be able to share the human experience of the Vietnam War. The veterans spoke openly with the students, telling them about both the good and the bad experiences they lived through.

Veteran Gary Brynjulfson showed the students scars on his arm and hand that he sustained over 50 years ago during the Vietnam War. He reflected on both the visible and not so visible scars veterans have from their time in combat, explaining that some scars are within the veterans’ minds and are not as easily recognized by those around them.

Social studies students at Kimberly High School were able to view the artifact display and interact with those who served our country during the Vietnam War during their class block. The classes then listened to a 45-



Students listen as Gary Brynjulfson, who served as an army mortarman in the Vietnam War, describes his experiences during the war.

minute presentation by the veterans and had the opportunity to ask questions of them during a panel discussion. Additionally, all students at KHS were given the opportunity to visit the display and interact with the veterans over their lunch blocks.

The “Reflections of Vietnam” display contains everything from uniforms and mess kits to photographs and retired weapons. The newest addition to the display is a portion dedicated to the aftermath of the Vietnam War. It includes statistics and information on the impact to U.S. service members and the people of Vietnam.



Larry Cavanaugh, a Vietnam veteran, shares his experiences with students at Kimberly High School.

Several veterans staffed the exhibit throughout the entire school day so as many students as possible could interact with them and learn about the artifacts. The veterans explained the items and spoke about their personal circumstances during the war.

Being able to learn about history from the people who lived through it was a memorable opportunity for students. Hear from veteran Gary Brynjulfson and Nathaniel Klitzke, a senior at Kimberly High School who plans on joining the military after graduation, in this [Fox 11 story](https://www.fox11.com/story/news/2019/03/14/kimberly-high-school-vietnam-war-exhibit/5544440001) about the display <https://bit.ly/2Gz7ntN>.



Vietnam veterans and Kimberly High School students hold a POW-MIA flag at the “Reflections of Vietnam” traveling display.

Brynjulfson shared that it took him years before he could talk about the Vietnam War. The students learned a history lesson from the veterans, and perhaps by sharing their stories during this event the veterans are also gaining something meaningful in return.

### About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,000 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit [www.kimberly.k12.wi.us](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us).

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