

**Ansonia ceremony salutes veterans with speeches, songs, essays**

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - A salute to veterans Friday featured students from the city's public schools reading their moving essays about the meaning of Veterans Day.

The annual program at Veterans Memorial Park was sponsored by Gordon-Viselli Post 50, American Legion.

It also featured World War II U.S. Army veteran Jay Murphy, an Ansonia native who traveled from Minnesota to be a part of the ceremony.

He spoke about several men who hailed from Ansonia who went on to be heroes in both World Wars. Murphy said he grew up with one of them, Richard Yudkin, who served on Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's personal entourage and became an "overseer of the Pacific Air Force" during World War II.

Post 50 Commander Jack Granatie thanked all of the veterans in attendance for their service. "Veterans don't ask too much," he said. "They don't want to be in a special class."



Mayor David S. Cassetti read a proclamation and reminded students to always thank veterans for their service.

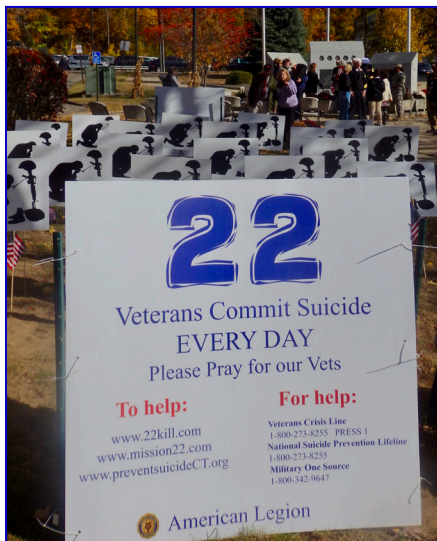
Patrick Henri, Adjutant, Gordon-Visselli Post 50, talked about an 22-day initiative to display 22 signs symbolizing the 22 veterans in the U.S, who commit suicide each day.

A chorus from Ansonia High School led by music teacher Maria Tangredi performed several patriotic songs.




Students who read their essays were: John C. Mead School sixth graders Jahmir Tucker and Veronica Diaz; John G. Prendergast School sixth graders Madison Calvo and Christopher Kaminski; Ansonia Middle School seventh grader Colette Mweze and eighth grader Reign Bernard; and Ansonia High School junior Millenia Aleksiejczuk.

St. Peter & St. Paul War Veterans Firing Squad offered a salute to war dead and Post 50 member Bill Ritchie played Taps. The Rev. James Sullivan from Assumption Church led an invocation and benediction.



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# Valley Arts Council honors veterans' creativity at gallery show

By Patricia Villers

DERBY - The Valley Arts Council's current show, "Visions from Veterans," features a variety of poignant and thought-provoking pieces of artwork created by area veterans.

The show opened with a reception at E Street Gallery, 35 Elizabeth St., on Veterans Day Friday and will run through Dec. 3. The event featured Robbie Steel of Woodbridge, who sang and played guitar.

Valley Arts Council President Rich DiCarlo said there was a lot of great artwork submitted, which "made it very difficult" for the five judges to decide on the winners.

The winners were Brian Flinn, first place for "Dogwood," a photo collage; Tony Arnold, second place for his untitled painting of a truck; and Dennis Libby, third place, for his painting, "Rowboat."

Libby, a Cheshire resident and an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, said he and his wife, Carol, are "big supporters of the arts and of anything for veterans."

He said now that he is retired he has been enjoying getting back into drawing, painting, and photography.

Honorable mentions went to Robert Kukiel for his painting, "Still Life with Flag," Rashan Hamm, for his painting, "Friends in War," and Edward Jones for his untitled pen and ink drawing.

The Visions from Veterans show runs through Dec. 3



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