

November 11, 2019

Dear Alief Staff,

Today is Veterans Day and citizens across our great nation pay tribute to those who have served as members of the Armed Forces. The following passage from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs explains the genesis of what was then called Armistice Day, which we now know as Veterans Day.

“World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars”.”

We are fortunate to have many veterans currently working in Alief ISD. They are working as teachers, coaches, principals, in our transportation department, police officers, JROTC instructors, in our mail room and in many more campuses and departments throughout our district. I am truly appreciative for the veterans in our district, and for their contribution to our country and way of life.

Just recently, I had the privilege of honoring a table full of our veterans from our district at the annual West Houston Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans. I enjoyed learning about their backgrounds, their military service and what they are doing for the students of Alief ISD.

The keynote speaker that afternoon was Michael Thornton, a retired Navy SEAL and Medal of Honor recipient. Lt. Thornton also was awarded the Purple Heart, Silver Star and three Bronze Stars. Despite all of these accolades, Lt. Thornton continues to pursue his lifelong goal to serve this country and is committed to helping others.

I ask you all to take a moment today to honor your co-workers who are veterans, active members of the military or members of the National Guard or Reserves. This is certainly an appropriate time to thank them for their dedicated and loyal service to our country and our students. To our veterans and active members of the military, let me thank you for the sacrifices you have made for our country and for what you do every day to help our students. Let's also thank Mr. Rick Moreno from our Board of Trustees who proudly served our country.

I also want us to keep in mind the many former Alief ISD students who are now serving in the military and the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to protect our freedom.

Thanks again to our veterans.

Sincerely,



HD Chambers
Superintendent