

Wickman Elementary School honors military veterans

Wickman Elementary School staff, students, and families were honored by the presence of 39 U.S. Veterans on Nov. 13 for its Veterans Celebration.

The annual event welcomes relatives and neighbors of Wildcats who have served or are currently serving in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. Many veterans return year after year, while each year new veterans participate.

Cliff Arakaki, brother-in-law to fifth grade teacher Lisa Conetta-Lee, and uncle to third grader Addison Lee, served in the Army during Vietnam. He has told Tom Rummell, Wickman's new principal, that this event was the first time he had ever been honored by anyone for his service. He returned to Wickman for the Celebration again this year.

Most of the adult celebrants agreed that although the parade out to the stage, the Pledge of Allegiance, the speaker, and the recognitions were wonderful, the most emotional part of the morning was when the voices of more than 900 children joined to sing, "Thank You, Soldiers" by Michael and Angela Souders.



Wickman students proudly watch Olivia Arellano, Navy, join the celebration. Arellano attended Wickman Elementary School from 2003 to 2006. Her brother Daniel Harrington is a third grade Wildcat.



Erin Horner, third grader, is joined by her grandfather Gary Stephan, Army, for the second consecutive year at Wickman's Annual Veterans Celebration.