



## From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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### **Schools should report their Veterans Day activities for recognition**

LINCOLN – Secretary of State John Gale is asking principals and teachers to notify his office as to their Veterans Day programs. Eight years ago, he launched the state’s Honor a Veteran program, with a website and templates for use by schools and classrooms to recognize and honor local veterans in their communities. Those that host a program will receive a certificate of appreciation from Sec. Gale.

“Because Veterans Day falls on a Friday this year, some schools have already hosted their programs,” noted Gale. “We want to be sure to hear from them, as well as other schools that may be hosting their program within the next week or so.”

Gale said he has heard already from nearly four dozen schools. Last year, more than 130 schools and classrooms received certificates.

“The real winners in all of this are, of course, our veterans. We hear so many positive comments about the activities planned and presented by the schools. It is always a very meaningful event.”

Some of the planned activities this year include:

- An annual celebration at Wilber Clatonia public schools held in collaboration with the local American Legion and Auxiliary clubs;
- At Mission Middle School in Bellevue, the day will include a “Lunch with a Hero” celebration in which students are asked to bring a family member or

family friend with them on Friday. Students have also been asked to write a paragraph about their own hero;

- Covington Elementary in South Sioux City is expanding its annual program. Students will perform an evening concert, which will include a highlight video featuring the photos and names of veterans related to the students; and,
- At Geil and Cedar Canyon Elementary Schools, veterans are honored throughout the month of November. Biographies are presented during morning meetings and students create "Wall of Stars" displays.

"This is just a sampling of what schools have shared with my office so far," added Gale. "We're eager to hear from other schools as well."

Schools and classrooms can share details of their events by sending an email to [sos.events@nebraska.gov](mailto:sos.events@nebraska.gov). All schools, public and nonpublic, are invited to participate.

Since launching the program in 2008 for middle schools, Gale has expanded the program to include high schools as well as elementary school programs.

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