



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

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### **Gale sends certificates to schools which honored local veterans**

LINCOLN –More than 160 schools and school districts from across the state are being honored by Secretary of State John Gale for hosting programs, large and small, for military veterans in their communities. Each one has been mailed a certificate of recognition for programs held on or around Veterans Day.

“It really is heartwarming to see the efforts that teachers, staff and students put into these events,” noted Gale. “Some schools open their doors to nearby communities as well as their own, so that everyone can enjoy them. Other schools incorporate flag folding demonstrations, essay contests and presentations of gifts to veterans in attendance.”

Among the programs hosted this year, Gale singled out the following:

- At Freeman Public Schools in Adams, students collected donations and made cards to be mailed to chaplains overseas and distributed to soldiers in time for Christmas.
- During a program hosted by the Adams Central Student Council, John and Pam Gaspers shared the story of their son Kevin, who was killed in Iraq. A scholarship is given in his name annually to a senior in each of the three high schools in Hastings.
- Lincoln Elementary School in Gering created a plaque on which the names of staff members will continue to be added, who are also veterans.
- Students at Leyton Public Schools in Dalton weaved stars out of red, white and blue fabric and presented them to veterans in attendance.
- A 98-year old World War II veteran was among those honored at St. Mary’s School in Bellevue. He and other attending veterans received handmade quilts from the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Gale said he often hears from teachers about the appreciation and emotion expressed through these programs. "They are very much about acknowledging the sacrifices of those who have served our nation, especially in combat."

Gale has been sending certificates to schools since 2008, when a program at a middle school in Grand Island caught his attention. This year, many schools reported using the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the armistice, to teach their students about World War I.

"Unfortunately, there is no shortage of circumstances in which military intervention has been necessary to secure the freedoms of our country. That is still true today. My hope is that our family members, friends, and neighbors who have served, and will be serving, will continue to be a source of inspiration for generations to come."

###

#### Participating Schools

**Adams County:** Adams Central Public Schools, Hastings Middle School, Hawthorne Elementary, Silver Lake High School

**Antelope County:** Elgin Public Schools, Orchard Public School

**Arthur County:** Arthur County Schools

**Blaine County:** Sandhills Public Schools

**Boone County:** Riverside Public Schools, St. Edward Public Schools

**Boyd County:** Boyd County Public Schools

**Brown County:** Ainsworth Community Schools

**Buffalo County:** Amherst Public Schools, Elm Creek Public Schools, Gibbon Public Schools, Horizon Middle School, Park Elementary School, Ravenna Public Schools, Zion Lutheran School

**Burt County:** Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Oakland-Craig Public Schools, Tekamah-Herman High School

**Butler County:** David City Public Schools, East Butler Public Schools

**Cass County:** Conestoga Public Schools, Louisville Public Schools, Plattsmouth High School, Weeping Water Public Schools

**Cedar County:** Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Schools

**Cherry County:** Valentine Community School

**Cheyenne County:** Leyton Public Schools, North Elementary

**Colfax County:** Clarkson Public Schools

**Cuming County:** Bancroft-Rosalie Community School, Wisner-Pilger Public Schools

**Custer County:** Broken Bow Public Schools

**Dakota County:** Covington Elementary

**Dawson County:** Gothenberg Public Schools, S.E.M. Public Schools

**Deuel County:** South Platte High School

**Dixon County:** Allen Consolidated Schools, Ponca Public Schools

**Dodge County:** Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, Fremont Senior High School

**Douglas County:** Brownell Talbot School, Concordia Academy, Crestridge Magnet Center, Elkhorn High School, Fire Ridge Elementary, Hillside Elementary School, Holling Heights Elementary, Karen Western Elementary, Kiewit Middle School, Liberty Elementary, Lifegate Christian School, Mary Our Queen, McMillan Magnet Center, Meadows Elementary, Ralston Middle School, Rockbrook Elementary, Sagewood Elementary, Seymour Elementary, St. Patrick's Catholic School, St. Stephen the Martyr School, St. Wenceslaus School, Upchurch Elementary, West Dodge Station, Wildwood Elementary

**Dundy County:** Dundy County Stratton High School

**Fillmore County:** Fillmore Central Schools, Shickley Public Schools

**Frontier County:** Eustice-Farnam Public Schools, Medicine Valley Public Schools

**Furnas County:** Arapahoe Public Schools, Southern Valley Elementary

**Gage County:** Beatrice High School, Freeman Public Schools, Southern Jr./Sr. High, Beatrice Middle School

**Grant County:** Hyannis Area Schools

**Greeley County:** Central Valley Public Schools

**Hall County:** Barr Middle School, Starr Elementary, Walnut Middle School, West Lawn Elementary, Wood River Rural Schools

**Hamilton County:** Aurora Public Schools, Hampton Public Schools

**Hayes County:** Hayes Center Schools

**Holt County:** Ewing Public Schools, Stuart Public Schools, West Holt Public School, O'Neill Public School

**Hooker County:** Mullen Public Schools

**Jefferson County:** Meridian Public School, Tri County Public Schools

**Johnson County:** Sterling Public Schools

**Kearney County:** Axtell Community School, C.L. Jones Middle School, Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

**Keya Paha County:** Keya Paha County Schools

**Knox County:** Bloomfield Community Schools

**Lancaster County:** Fredstrom Elementary, Valparaiso Elementary, Raymond Central High School, Trinity Lutheran School, Waverly Middle School

**Lincoln County:** Jefferson Elementary School, Sutherland Public Schools

**Logan County:** Stapleton Public Schools

**Loup County:** Loup County Public Schools

**Madison County:** Battle Creek Public Schools, Newman Grove Schools, Norfolk High School, Norfolk Jr. High School

**McPherson County:** McPherson County Schools

**Merrick County:** Central City Middle School, Palmer Public Schools

**Nemaha County:** Johnson-Brock Public Schools

**Nuckolls County:** South Central NE Unified, Superior Public Schools

**Otoe County:** Bennet Elementary, Lourdes Central Catholic School, Nebraska City Public Schools, Palmyra Public School, Syracuse Middle/High School

**Perkins County:** Perkins County Schools

**Phelps County:** Loomis Public School

**Pierce County:** Pierce Jr./Sr. High School, Plainview Public Schools

**Platte County:** Platte Center Elementary

**Polk County:** High Plains Community Schools, Shelby-Rising City Public Schools

**Red Willow County:** McCook Elementary School, McCook Public Schools, Southwest Public Schools

**Richardson County:** Falls City Public Schools

**Rock County:** Rock County Public Schools

**Saline County:** Crete Middle School, Dorchester Public Schools, Friend Public Schools, Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools

**Sarpy County:** Anderson Grove Elementary, St. Mary's School

**Scotts Bluff County:** Gering Jr. High School, Lincoln Elementary

**Seward County:** Milford Public Schools

**Sheridan County:** Gordon-Rushville High School

**Sherman County:** Loup City Public Schools

**Stanton County:** Stanton Community School

**Thayer County:** Bruning-Davenport USD, Deshler Public Schools, Thayer Central Community Schools

**Thurston County:** Pender Public Schools, Winnebago Public School

**Valley County:** Ord Public Schools

**Washington County:** Arlington Public Schools, Fort Calhoun Community Schools, Otoe Blair Middle School

**Wayne County:** Wakefield Community School

**York County:** McCool Junction Public Schools, York Public Schools