

Jordan school to honor veterans

Jordan School will honor veterans in a special Veterans Day Service on Monday at 10 a.m. in the Dorie Yates Memorial Gymnasium.

Fourth grade students at Jordan School honored veterans they know by writing about them.

Ashley Rothrock wrote about her grandfather, Charles Rothrock. He was born Feb. 10, 1939 in Wellington, Kansas. He married Shirley Rothrock and they had three children: Jerry, Michael and Leea.

He served with the U.S. Army during the Korean War and Ashley writes, "He went into the Army in 1953 when he was only 14. He came out in 1955."

She also expressed that he was the best Corporal ever and "I'm glad that Charles Rothrock is my grandpa."

Jared Netardus is the grandson of Joseph Netardus, born on Feb. 11, 1927 in Jourganton. He married Cherry Evans and had four children: Chris, my dad, Nancy, Greg, and Jan.

The elder Netardus served one year in World War II as a military policeman and was not injured. "My grandfather is a great man," said Jared.

"Lynna Renee Wright is a veteran," writes Akta Patel. Ms. Wright was born on Sept. 17, 1973 in San Angelo and was a cook in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1991-1994.

Akta continued, "She didn't fight in any combat, but she served her country proudly. She is a cousin of Courtney and Lee Anna Shotwell."

Presley Ellis wrote, "Howard Holland is my grandfather. He was born on April 24, 1933 in Scranton, Pa. Howard was married to Eleanor Powles and had a daughter named Kimberly.

"His date of service began in

1954. He served the United States Marines for four years. Howard was in the Korean War. His rank was Corporal.

"My grandfather believes in this country, so that's why I believe in him."

Courtney Shotwell writes that she has a relative that was in the Marines during Desert Storm. Clinton Ronam Wright, born Dec. 30, 1970 in San Angelo. He has two children named Katie and Barbra.

"He went in the war in 1989 and came out in 1994. He had no injuries. I am proud of my cousin," writes Courtney.

Emily Connell writes that she has a big brother, William "Billy" Connell, born Feb. 24, 1977 in Corsicana. He is married and has a child named Jessica Danielle Connell.

She concludes, "Billy was in the Navy from 1995-1997. He was a 3rd Class Petty Officer Electronics Technician on submarines. There was not a war or battle that he was in. I love my brother."

Parker Hartzon interviewed his grandfather Tommy Byrd:

Q. What branch of the service were you in?

A. United States Marine Corps.

Q. What war did you fight in?

A. Vietnam.

Q. Which battle do you recall being the most fatal?

A. Operation Mead River and Taylor Common.

Q. Where was your base in Vietnam?

A. An Hoa.

Q. How many soldiers fought in the Vietnam War?

A. Over 500,000 Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force soldiers.

Q. How long were you there?

A. 13 months.

Q. Was it sanitary in Vietnam?

A. No.



Tommy Byrd

Q. What kind of artillery did you use?

A. 105s, 175s, 81 mortars, 60 mm mortars.

Q. What determined the North from the South Vietnamese?

A. There was a line dividing the North from the South called the Demilitarized Zone.

Q. What did you live in?

A. In the jungle.

Q. What was the climate usually?

A. Hot and dry until the monsoon season, September through January, and it rained every day.

Q. What were we fighting for?

A. Helping the South Vietnamese fight for democracy against the North Vietnamese, which were communists.

Q. What was your job description?

A. My MOS was a 0331 M60 Machine Gunner.

Q. What was the worst part about fighting in the war?

A. Seeing your buddies get wounded and lose their life.

Q. Would you ever visit the war country again?

A. Yes.