

The Meter Setter 12

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HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

In the summer of 2001, Indiana enacted a law allowing local schools to award diplomas to WWI and WWII veterans who failed to receive a high school diploma because of the war. Following their return from the war, these defenders of freedom continued with their lives and many regretted never receiving a high school diploma.

The first high school in Indiana to recognize these veterans was Huntington North High School in Huntington, Indiana. On November 11, 2002, eighteen WWII veterans were honored by receiving their diplomas. The average age of these new graduates is more than 75 years old. Several received their diplomas posthumously. Huntington North High



World War II veterans who received diplomas on Veterans Day watch as Patricia Switzer receives a diploma for her late husband, Herman, from Huntington County Community School Corporation Board president and Ford Meter Box Advertising Manager Charles Chapman.

Photo courtesy of The Herald-Press/Chris Henderson

School Principal Ken Kline reminded the student body and more than 500 guests that these veterans "sacrificed time with their families, their jobs, their education and even their lives to serve in our nation's armed forces."

Veterans Day was once called Armistice Day. If the idealistic hope that World War I was "the War to end all Wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Sadly, a few years after the holiday was proclaimed by Congress, war broke out in Europe. Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

On Veterans Day 2002, the students at Huntington North were reminded that protecting our freedom is a continuous effort. This point was reinforced by the knowledge that Huntington's National Guard unit was being deployed to active duty on the same day these elder veterans received their high school diplomas. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."



The Color Guard from the Indiana Air National Guard, 122nd Fighter Wing, Fort Wayne, Indiana, presents the colors for the Veterans Day graduation ceremony.

Photo courtesy of HNHS/Susan Koehlinger.



The Ford Meter Box Co., Inc. 775 Manchester Avenue, P.O. Box 443, Wabash, Indiana, USA 46992-0443
Telephone: 260/563-3171 FAX: 1-800-826-3487 Overseas FAX: 260/563-0167 <http://www.fordmeterbox.com>