

Dear Ellington Middle School Community Members,

My name is Steve Donovan and, in addition to being a member of the faculty here at EMS, I work as the coordinator for our annual trip to Washington DC. This year we have a unique opportunity to honor some true heroes. We have an appointment to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 10:30 AM. This ceremony is one of the highlights of our trip each year and the ability to do this on the anniversary of the D-Day invasion enhances its meaning for our students. This invasion is widely regarded as the turning point in World War II.

Traditionally, the wreath that is placed on the Tomb bears the signatures of the entire eighth class as a symbol of our deep respect and gratitude to those who have given their lives in defense of our country and the values for which it stands. This year we would like to specifically honor anyone connected to the Ellington community who participated in the D-Day invasion. I am asking for the help of all of you who are connected to our school to reach out and find these heroes. At the very least, we would like to include their names on the wreath. This is the least we can do to honor these people.

Veterans of World War II are passing from our midst in ever increasing numbers and we would like to preserve their memories. We are also hoping that somehow, we can find a way to give our students opportunities to interact with veterans of World War II so they can develop a deeper appreciation of the reasons why they are popularly regarded as the "Greatest Generation."

Please contact me via email at sdonovan@ellingtonschools.net if there is any way that you can help us achieve our goal of honoring and learning from these heroes.

Thank you.

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Washington DC Trip Coordinator