



St. Joseph Sea Cadets Honor Pearl Harbor Heroes

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Nearly 3,000 lives were lost 65 years ago during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Today the symbolic tradition of a two-bell ceremony brings history close to home for St. Joseph's young sea cadets. The Ol' Crandall Division remembers those who fell long before their time. One by one members of the audience at the Navy Sea Cadet Pearl Harbor Ceremony stood and listed a ship and the number of casualties. After each ship or military brach was listed a golden bell was rung.

Almost 3,000 Americans died during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The totals are staggering but today's crowd was small. Ol' Crandall Commanding Officer Barry White said, "If we just have one person stand up and remember that's all we need." He was pleased with turnout and eve more with its message. White said, "Pearl Harbor doesn't get recognized and remembered like it should be. We were caught off guard that day. We thought everybody in the world was getting ready for Christmas. We lost a lot of good people that day."

Like every symbolic segment of the ceremony the two bells have meaning. White said, "The two bells are a symbol. It dates back to when someone in the navy is lost at sea. They can always hear the bouye in the harbor and that's how they know how to get back home." A prisoner of war place setting symbolizes that soldiers always have a place at American's dinner tables. The red rose represents our fallen heroes blood. The white china represents their purity and sacrifices. The salt their pain if we forget them.

The teenage sea cadets carrying flags in today's ceremony won't forget. White said, "We explained to them what happened that day and why we're here." For the cadets history means more than a textbook. Seventeen-year-old sea cadet Ryan Woody said, "I'm just proud to have the opportunity to get up there and say I remember these men who were lost it's just overwhelming. Seventeen-year-old Sea Cadet Jonathan Seifert said, "We think that `oh this happened many many years ago, it won't happen again,` but history is bound to repeat itself if we don't remember it."

The eleven through seventeen-year olds are too young to enlist but most have signed on to serve once they turn 18. The sea cadets are recruiting this Wednesday at Skaith School from 9:00-9:30 a.m. and 1:00-1:30 p.m.