

Veterans Day 2019  
Altitude Elementary School  
After Action Report

We were invited to Veteran Day celebrations at Altitude Elementary School, in Aurora. We had approximately 300 students from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Made for a busy morning for Rick Beaver, Bill Bates, Al Harnick, Carl Cavalluzzi, Dale House, and Mike Silva.

Because of the time constraint and the number of children we could only give them about 20 minutes per class. We divided the classes into three groups. We created three stations; one outside to explain the different helicopters used in the war using the murals on the side of the museum as examples. During that explanation Bill Bates related some of that conversation: "The children spoke of relatives that fought in the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars. One such boy stated that he had gone shooting with his father and "that was fun". The boy continued and asked, "how much fun was it to shoot bad guys". OK you parents out there, be mindful of children's perceptions. At another station located at the front of the museum at the Huey mockup, Rick Beaver explained in more detail the Huey helicopter, the flight controls, and its vulnerabilities, ergo the purpose of the "Chicken Plate". Toward the entrance we explained a little of the history of the war, which segway'd into how we were selected to be helicopter pilots and the chronology of flight school. We also explained how we communicated with our loved ones back home once we were in country as illustrated by chapter member Ed Fickes letters in his shadow box.

Bill stated, "that one of the teachers was complimentary saying that while she can teach from a book, our display and communicating with actual war hero's, takes it to a whole different scale".