

# Veterans' Day

## School vets (continued from page 1)

"The students gave those speeches without even looking at their notes. It is so nice to be remembered like this," said veteran Clarence Michael. "I saw three little boys salute us and that is so inspiring in this day and age."

The Dallas High School Veterans' Day program also included a flag folding demonstration on a somewhat taller scale. Two U.S. Marine Corps sergeants in full dress uniforms took the stage to solemnly fold an American flag that was displayed during the reading of "I Am The Flag of the United States of America," by Ruth Apperson Rous. Students Kelley Jacobs, Ken Bauer and Michael Miller took turns in reading this informative piece. The flag was then symbolically presented to Dallas American Legion Adjutant General Tom Reese and Post Commander Kepp Gottshalk.

The highlight of this program, though, was the awarding of two honorary Dallas High School diplomas to veterans who were unable to complete their education due to their service to our country. A law enacted in June 2001 allows school boards to grant the diplomas to qualified WWII veterans, both living and dead.

Shavertown resident Joseph McAdara served with the Navy on board the U.S.S. APC 24 in the South Pacific during World War II. He was discharged from the service with a 100 per cent service related disability. He and his wife Gloria have resided in Shavertown for 16 years. He received a standing ovation from the students upon the awarding of his diploma.

Nicholas John Sosik, Sr., who passed away in November of 2000, was awarded a Dallas High School diploma posthumously.

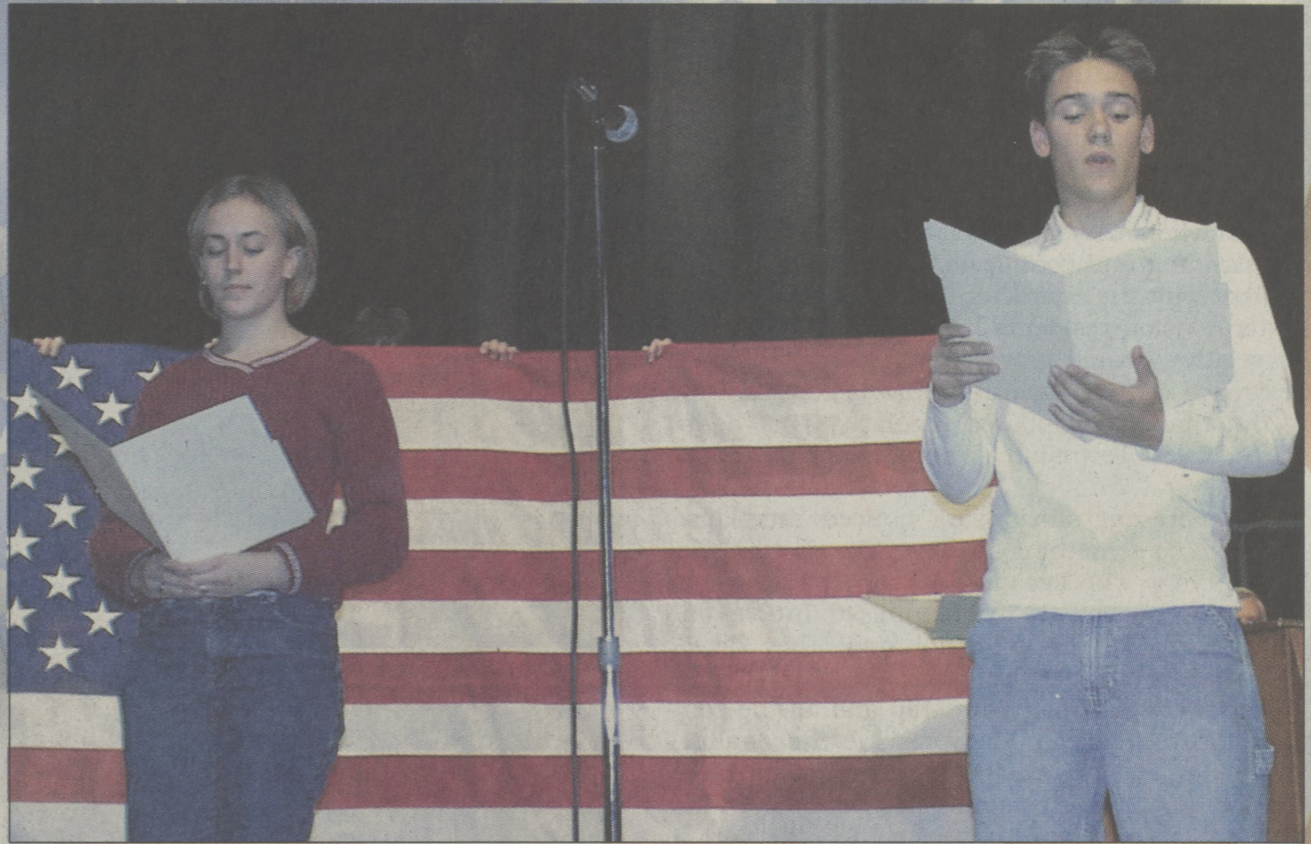
His daughter Carol Sosik, an employee at the Dallas Post Office, tearfully accepted her father's diploma, again to a standing ovation.

"I was excited when I read about this in the paper because it really bothered my father that he didn't have a diploma," said Sosik. "That's why it was so important for my brother, sister and I to get high school and college degrees."

As an impromptu gesture of respect, Frank Galicki, Dallas High School Principal, requested the entire student body go through a receiving line to shake hands with the honored guests, who included Representative Phyllis Mundy; guest speaker WBRE anchorman Keith Martin, a colonel in the Pa. Army National Guard, and several members of the Dallas American Legion.

On Monday, Anthony Martinelli, principal at the Dallas Middle School, introduced the school's program with an explanation of the history of Armistice Day. He also mentioned that although students didn't have the day off they showed their respect to veterans through these special programs. In addition, he read a letter from President George W. Bush to students attending school on Veterans' Day.

The middle school select chorus presented a beautiful medley of patriotic music to set the mood. Members of the gifted English classes shared the role of explaining the connection between each patriotic song and the war this country was involved in at the time it was written. The student body joined in the singing of many of these tunes. At the conclusion of the program, each student received a flag for the singing of "God Bless the U.S.A."



Kelly Jacobs and Ken Bauer read "I Am the Flag of the United States of America."



Carol Sosik received a diploma posthumously for her father, Nicholas J. Sosik. Adjutant General Tom Reese of the Daddow-Isaacs Post of the American Legion, and students applauded.



Legion members salute the flag. From left: Clarence Michael, Kepp Gottshalk, Bob Hislop and Walter I. Galka.



Dallas High School Principal Frank Galicki awarded an honorary diploma to Joseph McAdara.



Jared Kern explained the flag folding demonstration done by Cub Scouts Colin Bessmer, Ryan Williams and Kyle Piazza.



Keith Martin, far right, joined the receiving line. Members of the American Legion, from left: Jim Baloga, Bob Hislop, Kepp Gottshalk; Marine Sgt. Joseph Limani, and Sgt. Joel Payton.



First grader Brian Reese invited his grandfather, Tom Reese, to the program. Seated to their left is Arthur Bird, who was invited by his neighbor, Abby Mulhern.