



NEWS



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Local firefighters and law enforcement officers stand at attention as the Serrano Middle School Band plays "America the Beautiful" during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony, Sept. 9.

On Friday, Sept. 9, schools across the nation were remembering and teaching the tragic events of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center Terrorist Attack, and Belvedere Elementary School and Serrano Middle School were just two of several local schools to use the day as an opportunity to also thank and honor first responders who daily work for the protection and service of their communities.

Belvedere held its second annual First Responders Breakfast inviting personnel from local public safety agencies to a free breakfast of donuts, bagels, fruit and more. Following the breakfast a special assembly gave students the opportunity to personally thank the first responders who in return helped the school honor its student awardees.

"We have a great mural painted in memory of 9/11, and we wanted to do something extra to support in our first responders," said Principal Ann Pearson. "It has an added importance following Dec. 2 since we had some of our officers respond to the shooting. Police officers are often not placed in the best light and it's important that we honor the people who are ready to give up their lives for other people."

Firefighters from local stations were also invited but were unable to make it having responded to a fire. "It's an honor to get recognized for just doing our jobs," said San Bernardino City Unified School District School Police Officer Herman Gallardo. "It's what's expected of us so it's nice to have schools and other groups show appreciation."

At Serrano Middle School a special ceremony complete with gift baskets, color guard and the singing of the National Anthem by the school's choir, playing of "America the Beautiful" by the school band honored local law enforcement officers and firefighters.

The school's Cadet Corps presented the colors with student musicians Edwardo Diaz and Roberto Torrez playing taps before a moment of silence in remembrance of the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

"It's important for us to remember the significance of 9/11 to our nation and our community," said Principal Michelle Cleveland.

After a poem thanking first responders for their dedication and service, written and recited by ASB students Amaree Sanchez and Sistina Espinoza, ASB students presented each attending police and fire department with baskets filled with student-donated gifts.

http://www.highlandnews.net/news/schools/highland-schools-remember-and-thank-area-s-first-responders/article_888a432e-7b86-11e6-9b68-57344afc757c.html