

Local veterans treated to lunch and music program at Christ Church Parish

Veterans from around Middlesex County had been invited to attend and be honored for their service to our country at Christ Church Parish on Veterans Day, November 11. The response, slow to start, grew daily until the seating capacity at the church parish hall was maximized.

The program began with a presentation of remembrance for POWs and MIAs by Jeff McClelland and Jeff Loustau-nau. Bugler Toby Gillie played "Taps" at the conclusion of the presentation.

The guest speaker was Retired Rear Admiral D. Bruce Cargill, a 36-year career veteran. Admiral Cargill told the audience of the decline in numbers of the U.S. military over the years and encouraged them to contact their congressman in support of the military.

There were several WWII veterans in the room, including Norton Hurd, Francis Hall, Tony Robusto, Colie Hudgins, Bob Ramsey, Carl Dize, Harold Cook, Russ Russell and Roy Bowman to name a few.

The majority of veterans present served during the Vietnam conflict. Chip Buxton and Jack Eley came looking sharp in their dress uniforms.

Music was provided by the Christchurch School Cantorion under the direction of Mark Parsons.

A contingent of Marines on motorcycles came to the nearby gravesite of LtGen Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller to pay their respects. It made for a solemn moment as the bugler played Taps for the Marines.



Middlesex County veterans enjoy conversation, memories and lunch at Christ Church Parish on Veterans Day, November 11.



Admiral Bruce Cargill, USN, Mary Wakefield Buxton and CDR Joseph T. "Chip" Buxton, USNR, at Christ Church Parish's first Veterans Day luncheon.

The group was invited into the parish hall and served a hot lunch.

Earlier this year, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) was awarded funds from the

Diocese of Virginia for community outreach, specifically for a veterans program. Those monies provided the impetus for this program to reach fruition.