

May 1, 2025: VFW Post 5744 helped the 3rd graders at Central School celebrate Loyalty Day with a Flag Ceremony in front of the school.

When Teacher Megan Zottoli-Breen's students noted that the school needed a new flag on the school's flagpole, they asked Principal Nina D'Aran if this could be done. Principal D'Aran asked the town's foremost veteran advocate, Malcolm Kenney of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, for advice. Mal suggested a Flag Ceremony on Loyalty Day.



A flag ceremony is an event involving the raising or lowering of a flag and accompanied by a *Pledge of Allegiance* or patriotic songs. Loyalty day is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for recognizing the heritage of American freedom.

Above: Central School 3rd Graders Assembled by the school's flagpole.

Right: Mal Kenney spoke briefly about Flag Etiquette, Including:

When the flag is raised or passes by -

- Everyone in uniform should give a military salute
- Military personnel and veterans not in uniform may use the military salute
- Everyone else should face the flag with their right hand over the heart
- If you are wearing a hat, take it off with your right hand and place it over the heart
- Do not let the flag touch the ground





Mal presented a new U.S. flag to Principal Nina D'Aran.



Commander Jeff Chase and Mal Kenney performed a Flag Raising Ceremony while everyone attending recited their *Pledge of Allegiance*, including military salute or hand on heart.



Led by Music Teacher Kate Smith, the students then sang a beautiful rendition of George Cohan's patriotic march, *You're a Grand Old Flag*.

Miss Smith then invited everyone back for the school's annual Third Grade Patriotic Concert, to be held on May 21st.

Thanks also to teachers Caitlin Howell, Jennifer Wyatt, and Rachel Moore!



Veteran Jerry Beaudette stopped by to observe the ceremony.



Veteran Bill Blass with “Leila” stopped by to enjoy the ceremony. Not pictured: VFW’s Roger Guptill, Marc Scheele, and Mike St. Pierre.



Bill Blass with “Leila”, who live next door, are regulars at the school and are obviously loved by the students.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian