Making a difference

By Chaplain Allen Vaughan

How much difference can one person make? Well, here is an example. Most of us know that Veterans Day is celebrated Nov. 11, because it's a federal holiday and we get the day off. Some of us might even attend ceremonies or parades in honor of our veterans.

With respect to the origins of this holiday, we might see or hear some commercials and special programs aired on the television and radio. There may even be a short paragraph in the Plan of the Week about the history of Veterans Day, which was originally called Armistice Day, a day to honor veterans of World War I. First proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson on Nov. 11, 1919, Armistice Day didn't become a legal holiday until 1938. It was renamed Veterans Day by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954.

However, the part of the story you may not know is that the movement to rename the holiday to Veterans Day and the shift in emphasis to honor all veterans, was initiated by the owner of a shoe store from the small, Midwestern town of Emporia, Kan. Alfred King never wore a uniform, but through his leadership and influence, he convinced his fellow merchants and members of the local school board to close their businesses on Nov. 11, 1953, in order to celebrate "All" Veterans Day. He enlisted the help of his Congressional Representative, Ed Rees, who helped pass it through the House and Senate, and then onto the president's desk for signing into law. All of this was as a result of the efforts of a small town shoe salesman.

Perhaps, when you decided to join the Navy or another branch of the military, you might have said to yourself, "I want to serve my country… I want to make a difference." For many, however, after the oath is taken and somewhere between recruit training and that first duty station, you might have discovered that you are just one person in a large organization that doesn't appear to slow down or change for anyone.

I have talked to many Sailors, not just here among the forward-deployed naval forces in Japan, but throughout my career as a chaplain, who experience the feeling of "falling through the cracks." Or, they tell me, "I can't change anything. No one will listen to me, because I'm just a… (fill in the blank)." Family members can easily feel the same way.

On the other hand, there are those who find their niche in the military, accept the roles and responsibilities given to them, and rise above the anonymity of the crowd to become leaders. These leaders, whether they wear the nation's uniform or they are spouses, rise up from humble beginnings and make a significant impact on the lives of others and on the Navy itself. They either come to understand over time or believe from the very beginning that, yes, one person can make a difference, no matter how great or small.

My wife often reminds me of the Chinese proverb: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Great journeys, big ideas, successful careers and world-shaping events often start off with small, humble origins. Every day, one person can and does make a difference somewhere in the world. Because you or a member of your family has made the difficult decision to serve your nation and make sacrifices daily for the cause of liberty, I believe you are that "one person." Be blessed!

Seahawk Community Announcements and Article/Photo Submissions – Deadline for community announcements and article/photo submissions for the Seahawk is the Thursday before the next Seahawk edition. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Include your telephone contact information in the body of the e-mail. E-mail to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for more information.

Channel 15 Slide Scroller Submissions – All community announcement presentations for airing on local base channel 15 can be created using Microsoft PowerPoint software but must be saved and submitted as a jpg/jpeg type file. E-mail your submissions to watchpao395@gmailcom. Contact Tony Hill at ronald.hill@fe.navy.mil for more information.

NAVSUP Naval Supply Systems Command

U.S. FLEET & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CENTER YOKOSUKA HOLIDAY MAILING DATES

Holiday Mailing Dates 2010

(For Planned Delivery by Christmas Day)

Military Mail Address to: ⇨ Mail Class: ⇩	APO/FPO AE ZIPS 090-092	APO/FPO AE ZIPS 093	APO/FPO ZIPS 094-098	APO/FPO ZIPS 340	APO/FPO ZIPS 962-966	United States
Express Mail Military Service	18 Dec 10	Not Available	18 Dec 10	18 Dec 10	18 Dec 10	18 Dec 10
First Class Mail Letters/Cards	10 Dec 10	4 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10
Priority Mail	10 Dec 10	4 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10	10 Dec 10
Parcel Airlift	3 Dec 10	1 Dec 10	3 Dec 10	3 Dec 10	3 Dec 10	3 Dec 10
Space Available Mail	26 Nov 10	20 Nov 10	26 Nov 10	26 Nov 10	26 Nov 10	26 Nov 10
Parcel Post	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10	12 Nov 10

Building Kinnick Pride begins with visit to Sullivans school

KHS football team members DeAnthony Evans and John Allen pose for a photo with 4th graders Michael Hancock and Nick Boyd from The Sullivans Elementary School during a visit by the team Oct. 27.

Photo by Tanya Chambers

By Steve Parker, The Sullivans Elementary School Public Affairs

Nile C. Kinnick High School (KHS) coach Robert Stovall started the "Building Kinnick Pride" program 15 years ago in 1995, by sending his Red Devils football team to The Sullivans Elementary School to talk to students about school, football and leadership. Stovall has once again restarted the program by sending his Red Devils back to the school Oct. 27, to visit some of the team's adoring fans.

Stovall knows how to build a leader. He knows that football in America means leadership. He also knows that leaders don't just show up on Friday night and play football. They are built, one step at a time, by the communities they live in, the parents who support them, and the coaches and teachers who mentor them. That's why he started his "Building Kinnick Pride" program in the first place. Now that fate have brought him back to Yokosuka, the program has restarted. This time, he's looking to the future.

This time around Stovall is a little older and a little wiser, and his vision for the program has grown. He is starting small with this visit. He wants the players to have a feel for how much they are looked up to by the younger members of the community. The players come in to the classrooms; let the children put on their football pads to build interest, and talk about eligibility and what it takes to be a football player. Some of the players may be ineligible to play that week and they will have to tell the children why. Stovall knows that building a leader takes time. It's sort of a precursor to his vision of the future.

Next year, Stovall, who also teaches English and Speech at Kinnick, wants to expand the program to include cheerleaders and athletes from other Kinnick sports programs. He wants his players to make weekly visits so they become a continuing presence in the lives of young Sullivans students. He envisions a Sullivans classroom adopting "their player" who comes to visit them throughout the season. The Sullivans classrooms may support their player by cheering for them at games or making banners. The players will benefit by learning what it means to be a role model and the elementary students will benefit from being "cool" when a varsity football star takes the time to greet them by name. Perhaps, The Red Devils are "Building Sullivans Pride" more than Kinnick pride? Only time will tell.

Sullivans School Language Support Specialist Diane Garoutte, who assisted Stovall with the coordination of the event responded in typical Sullivans style when asked why she helped organize the event. "Robert called and asked for help, so I did." Short, quick, helpful, and to the point, Garoutte is like that. In fact, Sullivans Elementary is like that.

On the day of the event, children from one of the Sullivans 4th-grade classes were extremely excited about their visitors. They had been asking and reminding their teacher for days, and now the event day had arrived. The students with special classes begged and pleaded to be allowed out of other commitments so they could be in the classroom for the football player's visit. The Red Devils sent 50 players to visit 23 classes.

KHS Red Devil Richard Villareal, a varsity running back and linebacker, visited a 4th-grade class. Villareal demonstrated qualities of a leader as he stood armed only with his helmet and a handful of Pixie sticks in front of the curious students. He faced his opponent with courage and his knowledge of football trivia and finally won their respect by showing them how to take off a helmet when you are cold. After playing what was surely one of his hardest games to date, Villareal stated that, "It was something different for me, I would love to do this again… send me here every week." Sullivans 4th-grade student Kaino Johansen, said, "It was like a visit from a famous person except, he's not famous."

Students in Nikki Salter's kindergarten class were able to try on shoulder pads as Villareal and Jamarcus Hackney told the students they wear the pads to be safe. Other 4th-grade students got very excited about the visit from KHS quarterback, John Allen and junior varsity player Deanthony Evans. According to the teacher, the students were very engaged in all parts of the player's presentations. The children asked about the 2.0 eligibility rule and if it applied to all sports. All of the classes and children learned valuable lessons about football, making good grades, teamwork and how to get a heavy helmet off your head when you haven't sweated enough.

A straw poll at the end of the visit, which asked how many students are going to ask their parents if they can go to the next football game, resulted in a room full of raised hands and cheers. Hopefully, KHS will produce this valuable mentorship program year after year. If they do, Sullivans will gladly supply classroom after classroom of eager participants.