



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inquiries: Maria Martinez, Communications Manager
St. Joseph High School, mmartinez@sjcadets.org

ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY AND DONATES 680 SOCCER BALLS TO THE KICK FOR NICK FOUNDATION

November 10, 2017—TRUMBULL, CT— St Joseph High School, striving to be Southern Connecticut's premier college preparatory school, held their annual Veterans Day Assembly today. During the Assembly, students, faculty, and community members were enthralled by the Presentation of the Color Guard (presented by the **Port 5 Naval Veterans Association**) as well as two speeches from United States Veterans, **Commander Richard Iannucci** (from the Port 5) and **Raymond Baldwin '66**, former First Selectman of Trumbull. The program ended with the presentation of more than 680 soccer balls to the Kick for Nick Foundation – the result of a month-long collection!



“I can truly feel Nick’s presence here,” said a **Shalini Madaras**, Nick’s mother, who founded **Kick for Nick**, an organization that honors the memory of Private First Class **Nicholas Alexander Madaras (pictured)**, who lost his life in service. Before he passed, Nick expressed the comfort and familiarity brought to him, his fellow soldiers, and the local children where he was stationed, simply by kicking around a soccer ball. With this in mind, Kick for Nick was started as an initiative to distribute soccer balls to troops stationed around the world as a way to offer relief and build relationships between the servicemen and disadvantaged children in their communities.

“I am truly grateful to everyone at St Joseph High School for taking the time today to remember all of our fallen heroes,” remarked **Raymond Baldwin**, “Let us honor their memory. Let us honor their service. But most of all, let us honor their sacrifice.”

“I have seen first-hand how one person can inspire another, and then another, and together can make a profound difference,” added **Mrs Laurene Collins, SJHS Theology teacher and Ladies Auxiliary member of the Port 5.**”

During the month of October, St Joseph High School received soccer balls from students, parents, alumni, and even other Connecticut nonprofits! With an initial goal of just 100 soccer balls, the faculty and staff are incredibly humbled by the generosity of St Joe’s family and friends. They would like to thank each and every person who took the time to think about those men and women in service – all of this is in their honor.

Select photos are below and more can soon be view on our SJHS’ Smug Mug page: sjcadets.smugmug.com

About St Joseph High School

St Joseph High School (SJHS) strives to be the premier college preparatory school in Southern Connecticut. The school provides a learning environment that embraces the Gospel values of the Roman Catholic faith and promotes a commitment to family and community. SJHS prepares young women and men to realize their potential, helps them to excel in higher education, and provides a foundation to guide them throughout their lives because where you go to high school matters. St Joseph High School is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools. www.sjcadets.org

About Kick for Nick Foundation

To honor PFC Nicholas A Madaras we seek to support U.S. troop and volunteer efforts in fostering peace, good will and stability across the globe by collecting soccer balls and delivering them into the hands of underprivileged children around the world. Through the simple gift of a soccer ball, we hope to perpetuate Nick’s dream of bringing a bit of hope and joy to children living in difficult circumstances. Visit their website to learn more at <https://kickfornick.org/>

Word Count: 350

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Pictured:
Raymond Baldwin
'66, Veteran and
former First
Selectman of
Trumbull



Pictured:
Shalini Madaras,
Nick's Mother



Pictured:
Presentation of the
Color Guard by the
Port 5 Naval
Veterans
Association
(Bridgeport, CT)