



# Quilts of Valor Honorees Celebrated at 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Woolwich Twp.** – Representatives from the South Jersey Quilts of Valor Foundation participated in *Kingsway's 4th Annual Veterans Day Breakfast* on Friday, November 15, 2024, where they presented hand-made Quilts of Valor to Kingsway employees who have served in the United States Armed Forces. This year's honorees were Bus Driver Henry Olinsky (U.S. Army) and School Resource Officer Billy Franklin (U.S. Marine Corps).

#### **About Henry Olinsky**

Henry has served as a school bus driver for Kingsway since 2012 and is being recognized for his outstanding service. He served in the U.S.

Army from 1974 to 1978 with the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, and the 82nd Airborne Division. His distinguished military career includes roles as a paratrooper, expert rifleman, and jungle warfare expert, embodying the dedication and courage that define the U.S. Army. Henry's service during the Cold War era contributed to securing the legacy of these elite units.

#### **About Billy Franklin**

Officer Franklin, one of our devoted school resource officers, served in the United States Marine Corps from 1984 to 1988. He participated in *Operation El Dorado Canyon and the Freedom of Navigation Exercises*, which involved airstrikes against Libya in response to the 1986 bombing of a West Berlin nightclub. His service exemplifies the courage and resolve of the U.S. Armed Forces, and we are proud to recognize him as an integral member of our school community.

#### **Continuing the Tradition of Honor**

These outstanding veterans join last year's honorees: Navy JROTC Instructor Senior Chief Dave



Schuster (U.S. Navy), MS History Teacher Zachary Van Der Wall (U.S. Marine Corps), HS English Teacher Andrew Young (U.S. Marine Corps), Custodian Dennis Jester (U.S. Army), and HS History Teacher Kristian Ward (U.S. Marine Corps). Kingsway's [Navy JROTC Cadets](#), Middle School Choir, Band, Student Council Members, and the Woolwich VFW Post 10886 also participated in this year's ceremony.

"It's a privilege to honor our local Veterans here at our school, where we can teach our students about the sacrifices these men and women made to protect our freedoms. Acknowledging them as local heroes allows us to reflect on their immeasurable courage and the rights they've safeguarded for all Americans. As General Dwight D. Eisenhower famously said on the eve of the D-Day invasion, 'The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.' We are deeply grateful for their service and proud to present them with these Quilts of Valor as a token of our appreciation," said Dr. Jim Lavender, Superintendent.

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#### **About the Kingsway Regional School District**

Kingsway is a limited-purpose regional school district that offers its students a rigorous academic program and a myriad of enrichment programs and services for students in grades 7 to 12. Kingsway Regional Middle School (grades 7 to 8) and Kingsway Regional High School (grades 9 to 12) cater to the individual needs of our students and promote opportunities for students to pursue their areas of interest. Our population of nearly 3,000 students is multicultural and reflects the diversity of the communities it serves. Its mission is to ensure that all students receive rigorous and engaging instructional experiences that promote high levels of student achievement, including those with diverse learning needs. To learn more, visit the District's website at [www.krsd.org](http://www.krsd.org).

#### **About Kingsway's Navy JROTC Program**

The Navy JROTC program is a program of choice at Kingsway Regional High School. As part of the program, students will take courses that meet classroom learning objectives and physical fitness goals. Student Cadets are given opportunities to serve their community, become class leaders, and participate in area competitions. Watch this [Navy JROTC Informational Video](#) to learn more about this select group.

#### **About the South Jersey Quilts of Honor Foundation**

The [South Jersey Quilts of Valor Foundation](#) was founded in 2003 with a mission to cover Service Members and living Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.