

For Immediate Release

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### MILITARY PERSONNEL SPEAK TO NDA STUDENTS

As part of its Catholic Schools Week celebrations, Notre Dame Academy recently held a Red, White & Blue day, where the purpose was to honor our country and the people who have served our country over the years. On that day, four military personnel, including two Notre Dame Academy parents, spoke to the children about their experiences in a very moving and uplifting talk.

The honored guests who spoke to the students were NDA parents Lieutenant Colonel Tom Weikert., U.S. Army Reserve and an Iraq War veteran; and Ana Maria Poolard, SMSgt, USAF Service Member, as well as retired serviceman First Sergeant Eddie Head, who served more than 30 years in the United States Army, Army Reserve and National Guard and also served two combat tours in Iraq from 2003-2004; and John Meurer, a retired U.S. Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War.

“All four spoke about how their love of country deepened with service,” said Mrs. Joan Janoszewski, Notre Dame Academy’s Religious Education Coordinator. “They saw people who lived without freedom and saw how important freedom is. What the students really learned is that one of the biggest joys of serving our country is when you realize that you are part of something bigger than yourselves.”

Notre Dame Academy is an independent, Marist-sponsored Catholic school serving Pre-K3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grades and is located at 4635 River Green Pkwy. in Duluth, GA. Families interested in the school can find them online at [www.ndacademy.org](http://www.ndacademy.org) or may schedule a tour calling by (678) 387-9385.

Military personnel in the photo:

From left to right:

John Meurer  
Ana Maria Poolard, SMSgt  
Lieutenant Colonel Tom Weikert  
First Sergeant Eddie Head