



## For Secondary Students of History

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**Article by: Gabe Griffith** - student at Newnan High School in Newnan, Georgia.

On October 20th, Will Jimeno came to Newnan High School to speak about his experience being buried alive on 9/11. The Newnan High School History Department planned an afternoon long celebration of the sacrifices made by the heroes of 9/11, and Jimeno's speech headlined the daylong event at 6:30 P.M. in the school's auditorium.

Newnan High School's History Club, one of the largest History Clubs in the United States with 157 members, strives to both serve the local community in terms of service but also to serve them by keeping history alive. To kick off the afternoon, History Club members had a screening of the film "World Trade Center" to commemorate the importance of Will Jimeno's experience as a first responder on the day that changed the nation.

After students watched the powerful film, History Club members and History teachers served a pancake breakfast dinner for local first responders, to thank them for all their efforts.

Shortly before Jimeno took the stage, The Cornerstone Men, a men's choir, opened the event by singing patriotic songs such as "God Bless America" and also leading the packed auditorium in the Pledge of Allegiance. Like the unifying force at Ground Zero, a roar of patriotism could be heard as the crowd heartily

building effect that he saw police officers having on both himself and others around him in his early life: "I saw a side of law enforcement that made a difference." Jimeno would be inspired by the efforts of law enforcement and civil servants to commit his own life to a similar sense of duty and service, later to become a law enforcement officer himself. After six long years, he was given his chance to become a Port Authority Officer. During August of 2000, Jimeno entered the Police academy to further his knowledge of the laws of New York and New Jersey and ready himself for a career in civil service.



joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America shortly before Jimeno entered the auditorium. Upon Jimeno's entrance, a second roar of applause erupted in the auditorium.

Jimeno began his speech by first mentioning his upbringing at a Catholic school that would inspire him to become a police officer. He spoke to the audience about the positive influence and community

Trade Center, but little did he or anyone else know that later that year he would be returning under very different circumstances. Jimeno loved his job as a police officer, because he felt like he was making a difference in the world around him for the better. Jimeno explained how he was always excited to go to his job everyday. "Every morning I would wake up excited to go to work, and September 11th was no different," he said.

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On September 11th, Jimeno recalled how during a routine shift that day a dark shadow covered an entire city block, and he watched the shadow until it disappeared. He saw his partner looking up following what caused the shadow. Only a few minutes later their radios would begin calling in all officers to what they realized was an attack on the World Trade Center Towers. Jimeno returned to his station and saw the WTC burning from a television. When his Sergeant was calling off names to go help those trapped in the burning buildings, Jimeno did not hesitate to jump into action. "I didn't wait for my name to be called," Jimeno told Coweta citizens as he described the scene.

Once the officers reached the towers, they went to get gear to help begin rescuing the individuals that were trapped. In this brief moment before the towers fell, Jimeno recalled the valiant efforts of the civilians, "In the midst of horror I see a lot of love." Civilians walked through glass revolving doors helping injured co-workers and complete strangers, compelling everyone at the scene to begin selflessly helping their fellow Americans.

Shortly after, he heard a huge explosion and felt a tremendous rumble. Thanks to the leadership of Sergeant John McLoughlin, Jimeno's team was able to get to a hallway near an elevator shaft, the most stable part of any building. Will Jimeno served in the Navy for four years, and during his service he learned the importance of leadership especially in times of crisis. During his speech, Jimeno expressed the importance of leadership to the youth of Coweta, framing these moments of heroism in the face of disaster.

After the first tower fell only three of the original five man team that entered the building survived. Sergeant John McLoughlin was pinned but not critically injured, Jimeno had a part of a concrete wall crushing him, and Dominick Pezzulo was completely unharmed. Pezzulo attempted to save Jimeno but died after the South Tower fell shortly thereafter. In Pezzulo's final moments, he selflessly shot a round in the air in the hopes of someone hearing the blast and arriving to save McLoughlin and Jimeno.

When the second tower fell, the concrete of the destroyed building pressed down on already pinned McLoughlin crushing his knees. After the dust settled, Jimeno and McLoughlin were able to stay in contact and kept each other awake while waiting to be rescued. After thirteen long hours they were saved by Dave Karnes, a former Marine. Jimeno recounted, "I was buried in a cocoon of concrete."

Jimeno was first to be pulled out and taken to the hospital where doctors began working on saving his legs that were severely injured. In his long operations, he flatlined twice but was eventually stabilized. Rescuers would later dig McLoughlin out by hand from the rubble. Jimeno ended his story with a single, important message holding the flag in his hand: "I'm proud to be part of history. Never forget, our flag is not made out of cloth but of the blood of patriots."

The audience was greatly moved by his speech with many tears and heavy emotions filling the eyes and hearts of those sitting in the NHS auditorium. Kirstin Criste, an NHS senior, felt the powerful emotions that were relived through Jimeno's words. She explained, "9/11 matters to us, because it is a part of our history that can never be forgotten. It has taught us even through all of the pain and destruction, that we are Americans and that we stick together no matter what."

Through his speech, Jimeno made a deep impression on Newnan High School, both its students and the school itself. From hosting an American hero, the event brought a new depth of understanding and reality to many students about the attacks on American soil that day, including NHS Sophomore Romina Subia. "I have always known that 9/11 was a terrible attack that affected many people's lives, but seeing someone's point of view that actually went through this horrible event was so much more surreal," she commented. "It opened my eyes to what really happened that day. 9/11 is so important not only to adults but to the youth. We are the future of the United States and the world, and whatever happens in our future depends on us learning from this catastrophe. We will make sure to not let history repeat itself."

Access to the NHC network, which includes chapters in 44 states and over 16,000 members, is a great benefit of joining the NHC. We encourage you to read about other chapters in your state or across the country, and to contact a fellow Advisor to swap ideas or explore new opportunities! We have provided the e-mail addresses for Advisors at the chapters featured. Also, to explore specific sites click on the bolded text to be redirected to the website.

**Boyertown Senior High School** (PA) is working on two massive projects. First, they are planning the construction of a Veterans Wall of Honor in their high school. They raised over \$1600 for that effort on Veterans Day with a push-up contest. Secondly, they are working with the **Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles** to archive their collection of 17,000 photographs in a digital database...Contact: **Steve Bleiler**

**Fort Collins High School** (CO) has explored the issue of human trafficking this fall. They hosted a guest speaker, Beth Bruno, who spoke to the group about the world-wide problem and some of the social justice ideas to help combat it. Ms. Bruno runs a non-profit called **A Face to Reframe**, which uses art, photography and education to raise awareness in their community and state about the evils of human trafficking. The Club has a student leadership board who works with her...Contact: **Christine Matthie**

**Gateway Senior High School** (PA) had **Timothy Naftali** come speak to the group in October. Mr. Naftali worked for the federal government to move and display all of Richard Nixon's papers and tapes. They were in Washington by act of Congress and Nixon's family wanted them in California. His job was to move the evidence and exhibit it in a fair and balanced way. He detailed the battle that ensued and in doing so highlighted the nature of history and how interests attempt to control the narrative of the past. His overall conclusion, which he was passionate about, was

that Nixon was a criminal and should have gone to jail. He maintained that Nixon was not simply a president who got caught. In fact, he contended that the notion that all presidents do the kinds of things Nixon did is false and dangerous. He also discussed a new book he is working on about JFK and presented a sweeping history of the Democratic and Republican parties from Nixon to the 2016 election...Contact: **Mark Wallace**



*Brownsburg High School (IN) received a \$500 grant from the Society of Indiana Pioneers to help clean up, restore, and prepare activities for a reproduction log cabin that is on their school property.*

**Mineral Ridge High School** (OH) just completed their 2nd annual Veterans Day Breakfast this past Friday. They had over 25 veterans attend the event. Also, the Club traveled to the **Packard Museum** and the Warren Ghost Walk in the middle of October. In December, the group will visit Cleveland to go to the **Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage**....Contact: **Tim Porter**

**Our Lady of Mercy Regional Catholic School** (PA) joined the NHC this fall and at their second meeting they spoke about

the roles of the officers for the History Club and tied it into the 2016 election process between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. They also discussed biography and the importance individuals have on history. Within this focus, the group spoke about Anne Frank and her life and the impact the Holocaust had on her. They also reflected on Anne Frank's view on humanity regardless of the circumstances in regards to her famous quote: "In spite of everything I still believe people are good at heart"...Contact: **Bill O'Connell**



**Manasquan High School (NJ)** recently took a walking food tour of Little Italy and Chinatown in NYC. The trip was booked through **Ahoy Tours**, who told the students about the history of the area and its evolution. Along the way they sampled food including dumplings, cannolis, and other related items.



**North Arvada Middle School (CO)** visited the **Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center**, which offers free tours of the facility including the court rooms, law library and Learning Center. The Center is the home of the Colorado Supreme Court, the Colorado Court of Appeals and a number of other judicial and legal agencies. It is named in honor of Colorado's 29th governor.



**Heritage Christian Academy (MI)** went on a day trip to the **Gilmore Car Museum**, one of the best known museums in the state of Michigan. Students and teachers were amazed by the beautiful automobiles that had been displayed for years throughout the museum and throughout the property in Hickory Corners, Michigan. The museum, which was established in 1966 with 35 cars on display, now houses over 350 automobiles ranging as far back as the 1800s.



**Moline High School (IL)** hosted a school wide assembly to recognize and honor the great sacrifices made by veterans from their community. They organized the event by first briefly introducing the veterans, then they held a panel discussion with questions submitted by MHS students. At the assembly, they had Veterans from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Iraq war share their experiences in the Armed Forces.



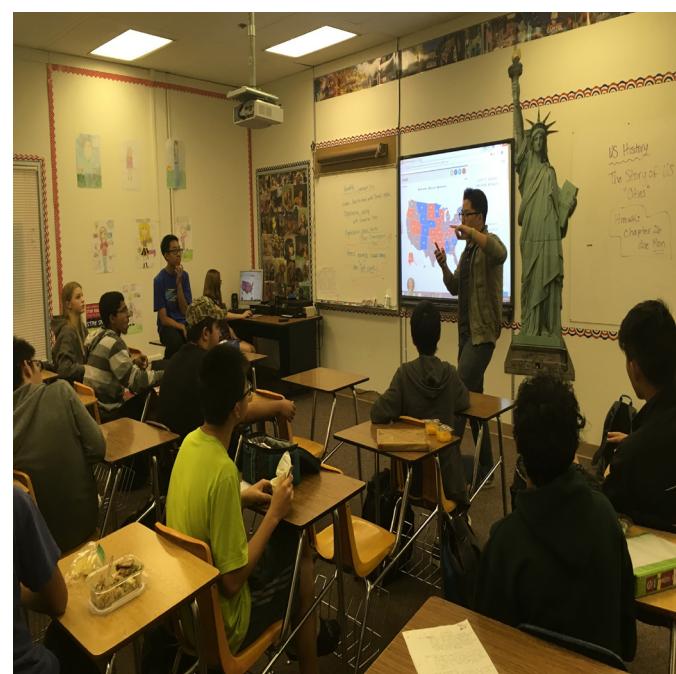
**Richlands High School (VA)** students **Ellie Lindsey** and **Ryan Lawson** marking graves of Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans at the historic Jones Chapel Cemetery.



**Henry Clay High School (KY)** students writing a history of their school's "new" building (1970), which will be kept in the school library.



**West Noble High School (IN)** headed to the Old Noble County Jail, which was built in the 19th century.



**Whitney High School (CA)** also got into election fever by having an election-style competition in November.



**St. Peter's School's (NJ)** attended and marched in the Belleville Veterans Day parade on November 6th. The parade ended at the Belleville War Memorial and both the Disabled American Veterans association and Post 150 of the American Legion were involved in the parade.



**Rutgers Preparatory School (NJ)** is involved in the Hands-On History Innovation Program, which exposes students to various subjects within the field of history. The program's aim is to take the skills they've been learning in the classroom—critical thinking, analysis of facts, and interpretation of multiple points of view—and apply them to real situations, which could include investigations of local history, digital history, archiving, historical reenactments, etc.

## \*\*\* LESSONS OF LEADERSHIP CONTEST \*\*\*

### The Power of the Spoken Word

“I came, I saw, I conquered.” - Julius Caesar

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” - Franklin Delano Roosevelt

“Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another.” - Nelson Mandela

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched -- they must be felt with the heart.” - Helen Keller

\* **Guidelines:** Throughout history leaders and famous individuals have often inspired us with their words. Many of us have a favorite quote, one that we may have memorized to heart that provides us with motivation and the desire to push forward through obstacles. The NHC and The HBE Foundation present the 4th annual Lessons of Leadership Contest, which invites members of the NHC to select a quote from a historical figure and examine how that person's actions validated his/her words and helped make an impact on history. Students are encouraged to think broadly for this contest, and figures can range from ancient to modern, domestic (local, state, national) to foreign. Contest entries can be submitted in any three of the following formats:

\* **An essay** of not more than 2,000 words, supplemented with a thorough bibliography and endnotes. Entries may be submitted in either of the following forms: 1) Microsoft Word document or 2) PDF document.

\* **A documentary** that reflects your ability to communicate your figure's importance, and also helps you develop skills in using photographs, video, graphic presentations, etc. Documentaries should not exceed more than 10 minutes, and sources used should be credited in an annotated bibliography.

\* **A website** that reflects your ability to use website design software and computer technology to communicate how your historical figure influenced history. Your website should include a collection of web pages, interconnected with hyperlinks, that presents primary and secondary sources and interactive multimedia. Sources used should be credited in an annotated bibliography.

All entries must be received by April 1, 2017 and can be emailed to **Bob Nasson** at **rnasson@nationalhistoryclub.org** (please type “Lessons of Leadership” in the subject line). Submissions will be judged by the NHC Advisory Board and winners will be announced at the end of April.

#### Awards:

First Place - \$2,000

Second Place - \$1,000 (two prizes)

Third Place - \$500 (two prizes)

The NHC would like to recognize the following colleges and universities as supporters of our organization. We strongly encourage students who are considering majoring in history in college, and may be applying to one of these schools, to visit the school's website listed down below to find out more about the history department.



American University	New York University	University of Colorado
Barnard College	Oberlin College	University of Florida
Carnegie Mellon University	Ohio University	University of Iowa
Catholic University of America	Penn State University	UMass Amherst
Connecticut College	Princeton University	University of Michigan
Cornell University	Rice University	University of Mississippi
DePaul University	Rollins College	University of Oklahoma
Georgia Tech University	St. John's University (NY)	University of Pennsylvania
Grand Valley State University	Stanford University	University of Rhode Island
Fordham University	Suffolk University	University of Tennessee
Florida State University	Syracuse University	University of Texas at Austin
Franklin & Marshall College	Temple University	Villanova University
Harvard University	Tulane University	Virginia Tech University
Johns Hopkins University	University of Alabama	Washington University in St. Louis
Kean University	University of Arkansas	Wellesley College
Marquette University	University of Chicago	West Virginia University

# NATIONAL HISTORY CLUB

The NHC would like to express our gratitude to the following people and organizations who make our important work possible...

John Abele	Parkview High School (GA)
Charles Aulino	Penguin Random House
HISTORY®	Smithsonian Institution
George Washington's Mount Vernon	Society of Architectural Historians
The HBE Foundation	<i>The Concord Review</i>
ACLS Humanities E-Book	The Churchill Centre
Agricultural History Society	Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles	Patrick Allitt (Professor, Emory)
Centre for International Governance Innovation	Peter Baldwin (Professor, UCLA)
Dole Institute of Politics	Rick & Barbara Berenson
Gilder Lehrman Institute	Rick Bitsky
HarperCollins Publishing	Philip Burnham
History News Network	Don Farinacci
History 500	Will Fitzhugh
Laurel Hill Cemetery	Norton Garfinkle
Maryland Historical Society	Joan & Rick Gier
Museum of Florida History	Marguerite Holloway
National Council for History Education	Frances & John Pepper
National Vietnam War Museum	David Preston
National World War I Museum	Henry Seng
National World War II Museum	Gina Shannon
Omohundro Institute of Early American History	Jay Stout
Organization of American Historians	Steve Wheatley

The National History Club is a 501(c)(3) organization that relies on grants and donations to support efforts. If you are passionate about history and would like to contribute to our mission of promoting history at the secondary level please contact **Robert Nasson** ([rnasson@nationalhistoryclub.org](mailto:rasson@nationalhistoryclub.org)).