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**News from the Town of Cutler Bay**  
For Immediate Release

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**“Town Celebrates Inaugural Veteran’s Day Ceremony”**

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CUTLER BAY, FL  
November 16, 2016 – On Friday, November 11, 2016, the Town celebrated its Inaugural Veteran’s Day Ceremony at Lakes-by-the-Bay Park to honor the brave men and women who served or currently serve our country.

Among the 150 people participating in the ceremony, the veterans and soldiers in attendance were honored and acknowledged, while sharing their experiences, ranks, and



*Town Council and Staff with Local Veterans*

services. Caleb Muñecas, Cub Scout from Troop 357, began the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Cutler Ridge Elementary Student Choir, led by Willie Minor, sang the National Anthem as well as a moving performance of “God Bless the U.S.A.” The Cutler Ridge Elementary Student Choir continued to provide live music throughout the event while attendees enjoyed food and refreshments.

Students from Cutler Bay Senior High were encouraged by teachers in the Language Arts Department to learn more about the heroism and importance of our American servicemen and women throughout our nation’s history; inviting them to write an essay or poem titled “Why is a Veteran a Hero?” A total of 200 essays and poems were submitted, and ten (10) were chosen as finalists. Of the ten (10) finalists, three (3) students were selected as the top winners, who read

their pieces at the ceremony and were presented with a certificate from Mayor Peggy R. Bell, Vice Mayor Ernie Sochin, Council Member Roger Coriat, Council Member-Elect Michael Callahan and County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. The students were also awarded with \$125, \$100, and \$75 from CenterState Bank.

“We have so much to thank our veterans for every day and this is just a small expression of our appreciation. I am thoroughly impressed by the student essays that were read today and proud of our younger generation and how they contribute to our Town. I look forward to an even larger celebration next year!” stated Mayor Peggy R. Bell. The ceremony ended with the playing of taps on a bagpipe by Mark Pinks, then a moment of silence as a tribute to all the fallen soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the name of our freedom.

For additional information regarding upcoming special events, please visit the Town’s website at [www.cutlerbay-fl.gov](http://www.cutlerbay-fl.gov) or contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (305) 238-4166.



*Left to Right: Almir Torres, Jocelyn Lagueruela, Council Member-Elect Michael Callahan, Parks & Recreation Director Etienne Bejarano, Ericka Gonzalez, Town Manager Rafael Casals, Julie Romero, CenterState Bank, Vice Mayor Ernest Sochin, Mayor Peggy R. Bell*

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