



Contact: Erin Sullivan

Email: sullivan.erin@ocls.info

Phone: 407-835-7480 (For publication purposes,
please use 407-835-7323)

Orange County Library System and CareerSource Central Florida Launch Series to Teach Kids About Veterans

Florida is home to 1.6 million veterans – the third-largest population of veterans in any state in the nation – and the Orange County Library System has created a new systemwide series to teach children how their efforts have protected our country.

Vets! Our Heroes! is an interactive program, created in partnership with CareerSource Central Florida, in which children learn about the branches of the military and honor those who have served. Each event, taking place at all of the library system’s 16 locations, will feature an introduction to a branch of the military, an activity related to that branch and a craft project in which kids will create thank you cards to be distributed to veterans in the community. At some events, a veteran will be on hand to talk to kids and answer questions, and at the end of every session, participating kids will sign a pledge to show respect and gratitude to our vets.

“Through this program, the library hopes to help kids value and understand the sacrifices veterans make to serve our nation, while learning about the branches of the military,” says Wendi Bost, Public Service Administrator for the Orange County Library System. “CareerSource Central Florida has a mission to help veterans in our community, and we’re proud to work with them to teach children to value those who have served, or currently serve, and appreciation for all they have done for us.”

Vets! Our Heroes launches on Oct. 1 with an event at 11 a.m. at the Windermere Branch (530 Main St., Windermere) and will continue with multiple events at library branches through November. A total of 46 programs are planned. At the end of the series, thank you cards will

be distributed to various veterans agencies throughout the community for distribution to community members. For a complete list of Vets! Our Heroes! Events, visit ocls.info/vets.

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The Orange County Library System is a public library system that serves its patrons by providing access to collections, facilities, events and services that connect our community to the evolving world of ideas, information and technology. For more information about the Orange County Library System, visit ocls.info.