



Photos by TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

American Legion Post 57 Honor Guard members Elaine Lagasse (from left), Wayne Hons and JD Morris show members of the Fort White Elementary School safety patrol the correct way to fold an American flag on Wednesday.

FWES students learn proper flag etiquette

Legion honor guard provides tips for safety patrol.

By TONY BRITT
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FORT WHITE — More than a dozen Fort White Elementary School students were given a brief history lesson on the American flag on Wednesday afternoon.

The students were taught about the origins of the flag, its colors and stars, as well as how to fold, handle, dispose and care for it during a flag etiquette program.

Fifteen members of the Fort White Elementary School safety patrol were briefed on the flag by American Legion Post 57 Honor Guard members JD Morris, Wayne Hons and

Elaine Lagasse.

During the session, which lasted about an hour, the safety patrol members lowered and folded the school's flag with assistance from Honor Guard members. They also formed groups where they all learned how to fold nylon versions of smaller flags. The school has a cotton version of the flag hanging from its flag pole.

Following the flag folding instructions, the students hoisted the cotton flag and demonstrated the new flag etiquette protocols they learned from Honor Guard members.

"I learned how to fold the flag and what the flag means," said Melinda Berglund, 9, a Fort White Elementary School fifth-grader. "I liked the program a lot. I think the other patrol members

liked it a lot and they liked to serve the patrol."

Columbia County Sheriff's Office Deputy David Jones is the school resource deputy at Fort White Elementary School and oversees the Fort White Elementary School Safety Patrol. Jones said it was important for the students to learn about the flag and the protocols to handling it on a daily basis.

"It was important for them to make sure they do it right and put it up," he said. "The flag is to be honored. This was just to make sure they do it right. I don't want them to mess up."

Morris said honor guard members thought the session would be beneficial to the safety patrol, which hoists and lowers the school's flag on a daily basis.

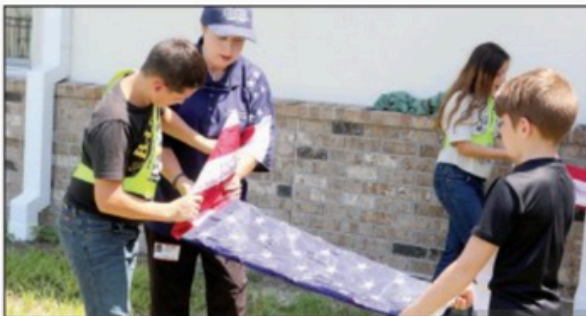
"The American Legion has a program called Americanism where we teach youth about patriotism, love of country and

the respect and love of our flag," she said. "During the session we reviewed basic flag etiquette, the meaning of the flag, the colors, what

they represent, what the stripes and stars represent, how to hold the flag, how to walk with the flag and then how retire the colors."



Elaine Lagasse, a member of the American Legion Post 57 Honor guard, helps a pair of Fort White Elementary School students fold a flag during a flag etiquette lesson Wednesday.



JD Morris, a member of the American Legion Post 57 Honor guard, helps a pair of Fort White Elementary School students fold a flag during a flag etiquette lesson Wednesday.