APS Military Veterans Proud of Time in Service

As Veteran’s Day approaches, Aurora Public Schools is honored to salute all veteran and active military personnel for their dedicated service to our country. APS is privileged to have many veterans working to help students shape successful futures. Here are a few staff highlights:

**Verlean Coman**  
*Clerk, APS Communication Department*  
*United States Air Force – 4 years*  
“My best memories of being in the Air Force involve building lifelong friendships and solidarity with fellow service men and women, and the excitement and honor of knowing my contributions as a munitions troop helped bring to fruition the global mission of the United States Air Force.”

**Maj. Kent Cast**  
*AFJROTC Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, Gateway High School*  
*United States Army – 6 years; United States Air Force – 20 years*  
“I have so many incredible memories from my military service. Most of my unit returned to the states on a chartered flight in March 1991. As we started walking to the terminal, a large number of New York City police officers lined the bridge, clapping and slapping high-fives with us. As we entered the busy terminal, everyone stood up and started clapping. The incredible display of gratitude caught us all completely off guard and we all walked to our next gate in complete silence, too moved to speak.”

**Brent Spahn**  
*Director, APS Transportation Department*  
*United States Marine Corps – 27 years*  
“My best memories are associated with the dedicated people that I served alongside. Perhaps my year in Afghanistan sticks out the most because difficult situations can bring out the best in a good team, and I was part of a great team. Everyone was committed to the mission and each other.”

**Christopher Vann**  
*Truancy Coordinator, Division of Equity in Learning*  
*United States Air Force – 21 years*  
“My best memory was being stationed at Lowry Air Force Base. I was a Supply Systems Technical Instructor, responsible for providing training for all Air Force personnel. I had the opportunity to meet airmen from all over the world and share life-changing experiences. If I had not been stationed at Lowry, I would never have worked for Aurora Public Schools or met my friend and mentor, Roy Smith (of Aurora Hills Middle School).”

As part of the Saluting America program, APS students are joining others from several Colorado school districts to honor our nation’s veterans and active duty military. Students will participate in a tribute contest, sending special tribute cards and hosting various school activities.

To learn more about Saluting America, visit salutingamerica.org.