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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY MARKS VETERANS DAY WITH SPECIAL ASSEMBLY

Coast Guard's Rear Adm. Crowley Encouraged Cadets to Serve Others

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Nov. 8 – Saint Thomas Academy marked Veterans Day yesterday with a special assembly featuring keynote speaker Rear Adm. John E. Crowley, commander of 9th Coast Guard District. In his comments, Crowley impressed upon the Cadets the importance of service and dedication to their school, their communities, their faith and the nation at large. Crowley was welcomed by an honor guard salute line and the Academy's band. Cadet Capt. C. Nocker ('08 of Woodbury) emceed the event.

"It was especially important to see an alumnus attain such a high level of prominence within the U.S. Coast Guard," said Lt. Col. Michael DePuglio, "It reinforced for the Cadets the notion that with hard work and determination anything is possible."

Crowley has built his career serving the country. He has risen to the highest ranks of the Coast Guard since graduating from the Academy in 1971. As the operational commander for the Great Lakes region, Crowley oversees more than 7,700 regular, reserve, auxiliary and civilian men and women; two air stations; two air facilities; four sectors; one sector field office; four marine safety units; 11 cutters; 46 small boat stations; and five aids to navigation teams. Under his leadership, Coast Guard personnel provide maritime security for 6,500 miles of shoreline and 1,500 miles of international border, and provide search and rescue marine safety and environmental protection, maritime law enforcement, aids to navigation, and icebreaking services to the region.

Crowley has served as special assistant to Secretary Ridge of the Department of Homeland Security, interim director of the Homeland Security Center, and the Coast Guard's deputy chief of staff. He was promoted to flag rank in October 2002 and was assigned as the judge advocate general and the chief counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Also speaking with Cadets was Capt. Darrin Janisch, who served as an infantry company commander with the U.S. Army's 34th Infantry Division. He spoke about his deployment in Iraq during leadership classes throughout the day.

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, military/leadership, Catholic, college preparatory school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally in and out of the classroom.

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