

FIRST DISTRICT 211 ALUMNUS HONORED FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION MILITARY RECOGNITION



*Corporal Neph Ramos,
also a 2012 Conant
High School
graduate, at an
event wearing his
dress blues uniform.*

A new tradition started for District 211 to thank graduates for the service they have given to their country.

Marine Corporal Neph Ramos, a 2012 graduate of Conant High School, was honored and thanked for his military services at the start of the Board of Education meeting on Nov. 13. Ramos is the first graduate to be recognized for his service and started the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

“I didn’t know that I was the first person to be invited because I thought this had already happened before, but I was pretty excited when I found out I was the first one,” Ramos said. “I think it is pretty cool that the District is trying to do something for people who choose this route in life. It nice to see they are taking the time to appreciate those people and recognize those who decide to do this.”

Ramos joined the Marine Corps following high school graduation and went to Boot Camp in San Diego, Calif., in August 2012. He said he never thought about joining the military, but was interested when a friend brought it up to him. Upon graduation from Boot Camp in November 2012, he received a Meritorious Promotion to Private First Class and began Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., in January 2013.

Following Combat Training in March 2013, he was promoted to Lance Corporal, trained as a Flight Equipment Technician aboard a Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., where

he maintains, adjusts, fixes, or correct anything necessary on survival gear such as flotation devices, parachutes, and oxygen systems. He graduated at the top of his class in September 2013. He was promoted to Corporal in August of this year, and his squadron is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton.



Ramos being honored before the Board of Education at its Nov. 13 meeting.

He plans on doing another tour of duty, continue as a Flight Equipment Technician, and attend college to earn a degree. He hopes to someday join an organization such as the FBI, DEA, or CIA. He said the opportunities that the military has offered him, such as benefits and college tuition, are unlike any that he would have had otherwise. He added that it's rare to come across someone interested in entering the military, but he would recommend joining with an honest description of what to expect.

"I would tell students that this isn't an easy life and isn't for the lighthearted," he said. "Since I have been gone, I think there was one year I was only home for 10 days. That's it. I was gone the rest of the year. It's not an easy life but it's worth it as far as what you get to do, the opportunities you receive, and the benefits they provide for you."

The Board of Education will continue Military Recognitions for District 211 graduates who are serving or have served before each meeting.