

● **SPEAKER.**

A Veteran's Day ceremony was hosted in the North High School auditorium on November 9, 2018. Sean Quinlan is in charge of organizing the speakers and what goes on throughout the ceremony.



● **SURPRISE.**

On September 14, 2018, Devin King graduated from MCRD San Diego. Before that, on September 13, family day occurred and Devin King was surprised by Sean Quinlan and his wife who flew to California for his special celebration.



● **NATIONALS.**

On May 19, 2018 Sean Quinlan took six of his cadets including Trevor Halsten, Keondre Newman, Nathan Lane, Kevin Nguyen, James Masteller and Nathan Hy to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to compete against other schools at the national level. They came in first place in their region and seventh place in the U.S.



Inside the Mind of a United States Marine

Laura Christenesen, Editor-In-Chief

Many people know Major Sean Quinlan as the JROTC Senior Marine Instructor. Some other people, however, know him as a father figure, a leader, a coach and a hero.

Quinlan has been teaching at North for seven years. During this time, he has coached the varsity football team for three years and oversaw the JROTC Program along with Gunnery Sergeant Michael Gettler.

Quinlan grew up in Scottville, Michigan with a large and supportive family. "I got my father's pride and I got my mother's compassion," he said. "The greatest gift they gave me was they believed in me. Basically, told us kids if you work hard and you're willing to help other people, serve other people, you can be successful."

After deciding college wasn't the path he wanted to follow, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1985.

"My whole family went in through the air force and army. I chose the Marine Corps because it was a challenge and I honestly just really wanted a challenge," Quinlan said.

On December 17, 1985, his whole life changed as he stepped on the yellow foot prints painted on the sidewalk of MCRD San Diego, California.

Leader

Throughout Quinlan's Marine Corps career, one can only imagine what it's like to be in combat, be a leader and serve 27 years.

"I chose to be an infantry officer," Quinlan said. "You get to lead large amounts of people and that's my forte."

After years of already being in the Marine Corps, to continue to increase his rank, he had to finish college. So, for 18 months, that was all he did. Afterwards, he was stationed in Virginia to command the unit there. He continued to increase in rank throughout his career, and was deployed to Iraq in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Upon being deployed to Iraq, he became the commanding officer of a couple hundred Marines.

"When we got there, unfortunately, there had been seven killed and 25 wounded in the

Features

last two weeks. Normally when you're going, you're replacing people that are there already, they've been there for eight months, they're ready to get out of there," Quinlan said.

Quinlan knew he had a lot of work to do in his new position. "I had a town of about 35-40 thousand people, 5000 kids out of school, no water, no electricity, there was four police men. It was very stressful because when you're there, you're in charge of what happens and what doesn't happen," he said.

"It was gratifying after seven or eight months because we really had made a significant change," he said. "We got 5000 kids back in school we got 300 teachers back in the system. We got a mayor voted in, electricity was working again, working water, fuel into the city, things we take for granted here."

He retired after serving 27 years, 10 years enlisted and 17 years as an officer.

Hero

Devin King, class of 2017, joined the JROTC program his freshman year of high school. His only goals were to play football and run track.

Quinlan, King's senior year football coach, inspired him to join the marines.

"He's helped me by always being there for me when I didn't have anyone else. He is someone that will tell you the truth about what's out there in the real world. He'll do whatever he can to prepare you for it. He's a caring, trustworthy person, and an honorable person," King said of the former marine.

"He's someone I look up to as a leader and a father, so I wanted to follow his steps to become a United States Marine," King said, explaining his decision to join the military instead of running track for college.

King then went through Marine Corps bootcamp at MCRD San Diego. At his graduation, King was given the chance to see his family and loved ones after training for 13 weeks. He was greeted with a pleasant surprise.

"I was looking for my family and something told me to keep walking forward and I saw him [Quinlan] and basically almost dropped, I didn't believe he and Mrs. Q really took a flight all the way to California on my graduation day. I cried like never before because for the last 13

weeks we only talked through letters, which came 2 to 3 weeks late sometimes, so it was really a huge eye opener and that's why I have so much respect and love for him," King said.

Coach

In addition to overseeing the JROTC program, Quinlan also helps coach the Physical Fitness Team which meets every morning before school to do workouts. Nathan Lane, senior, has been a part of the team since his freshmen year and has also become the Commander Officer (CO) in the program.

Through his last four years, they have gone to many competitions to compete against other schools. They even made it to the national competition in 2017 and 2018.

"Major is a great coach. He's always pushing us to be better, motivating me to be the best competitor possible and to push me to limits I didn't think I could achieve," Lane said.

Lane is going into the Marine Corps after graduating high school. "Major was definitely a huge factor in me wanting to become a Marine," he said.

"The last 4 years, Major has talked about giving back to the community and how enlistment was one of his best decisions in life. Major is an example of how the Corps can shape you as a person for the better."

Future

After retiring from the Marine Corps, he received many personal decorations: an Iraqis Freedom medal, three Navy Achievement medals, two Navy Commendation medals, three Good Conduct medals and a Bronze Star with combat V.

"But really, when you're in a leadership position, it's the actions of the entire unit. But I always looked at getting a medal as if I could break it up into 200 pieces and give everyone a piece of it. But it doesn't work that way, so my big thing was making sure I awarded my men and always gave them the credit they deserved," Quinlan said.

At the conclusion of his seventh year at North, he will be retiring from teaching to spend more time with his family and loved ones.