



Representatives from the American Legion stand in front of the Whippany Park High School Band as it plays "America the Beautiful." Students from Whippany's Memorial Junior School also perform with the band.

# 'Pride and Passion' culminates Whippany Park band's season

**HANOVER TWP.** - The Whippany Park High School Marching Band and Color Guard, known

as "The Pride of Hanover Township," presented "Pride & Passion" on Monday, Nov. 19, to an audience in the high school gym.

"Pride & Passion" was the culmination of the marching band season, as the band's members performed their pre-game show, halftime show, and selected special numbers.

"This evening we have lofty goals," Band Director Peter Sicciano stated before the event. "We aim to entertain, we aim to inspire, we aim to honor and recognize and we aim to do all of this through the universal language of music. This great task can only be attained with hearts and spirits full of 'Pride & Passion.'"

This year, the Pride invited the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Robert C. Gulick Post of Whippany and American Legion of Hanover Township to attend "Pride & Passion."

During the evening's performance, all members of the military were saluted with a performance of "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America." Additionally, the Pride per-

formed the Armed Forces Salute and invited veterans to stand when their branch of the military's song was played.

The color guard from the American Legion took an active role in the event, with a presentation of the colors and a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action ceremony.

"The Whippany Park Music Boosters have worked tirelessly over the past several months to get new uniforms for the great band standing behind me, Sicciano said. "The 'Drive to Outfit the Pride' was launched last summer, and many local organizations and businesses were solicited for contributions."

Whippany Fire Department Chief Joseph Cortright, also a band parent, presented a check for \$1,500 from the Hanover Township Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association Local 109, made up of paid firefighters from both Cedar Knolls and Whippany. Cortright noted the firefighters had chosen The Pride as one of three recipients of the proceeds of their annual fundraiser. The new uniforms will be debuted when The Pride

travels to Orlando, Fla., to lead the Magic Kingdom's Electric Light Parade down Main Street, USA, on March 15, 2013.

In addition to the 180 members of The Pride, the second annual "Pride & Passion" featured nearly 100 sixth through eighth graders from Memorial Junior School in Whippany. The middle schoolers, wearing "Future Pride Member" t-shirts, played several selections in the high school program.

During the evening, donations were also collected for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Whippany Park High School junior Laura Tecza led the effort. She, along with several other band members, will use the \$1,368 raised at "Pride & Passion" to purchase supplies, including towels and personal hygiene products, for families currently housed in South Jersey shelters.

The Pride's memorable season included a Gold rating by the NJ Music Educators Association at the recent State Marching Band Festival at Wayne Hills High School in Wayne. This is the third year in a row that the band earned Gold.

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