



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

lakecountyohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 15, 2026

County Contact:

Summer Torok

440.350.2220

summer.torok@lakecountyohio.gov

Lake County Hosts Inaugural Military Signing Ceremony Honoring Graduating Seniors

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, May 15, 2026– The Lake County Board of Commissioners proudly hosted its inaugural Military Signing Ceremony on Wednesday, May 14, 2026, at the Historic Lake County Courthouse to recognize graduating seniors who have committed to serving the nation through military service.

Held at 3:30 p.m., the ceremony honored students from across Lake County who have chosen to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, participate in collegiate Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs, or attend a United States Service Academy.

The ceremony began with a welcome and the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Presentation of Colors by members of the Brakeman-King American Legion Post 336 of Painesville, George E. Hayward Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9295 of Mentor, and the Cleveland Police Detachment 1410 Marine Corps League of Fairview Park.



From the left: Koda Genovese, Emma Madsen, Brayden Edward, Owen Engle

Opening remarks were delivered by Lake County Commission President Morris W. Beverage III and Jonathan R. Warmeling, Executive Director and Service Officer in Charge of Lake County Veteran Services.

Students recognized during the ceremony included Brayden Edward Pomnean of Lake Catholic High School, who committed to Navy enlistment as an Electronics Technician Navigation specialist on submarines; Koda Genovese of Lake Catholic High School, who committed to Marine Corps enlistment as a Utilities Systems Technician; Owen Engle of North High School, who will attend Duquesne University through Marine Corps ROTC to study International Security Studies; and Emma Madsen of Lake Catholic High School, who received a Navy ROTC scholarship to attend University of South Carolina and study Mechanical Engineering.

The ceremony also featured remarks from Petty Officer Star Lodwick of the United States Navy and concluded with the signing of the inaugural Lake County High School Military Service Journal.

“I love the concept of *Celebrating our Youth*. I can’t think of a group of young individuals more deserving to be celebrated than the High School seniors joining us today,” said Morris W. Beverage III. “We are honored and privileged to have the opportunity to recognize them before they embark on their careers.”

“These graduates represent the very best of Lake County,” said John T. Plecnik. “Their leadership, determination, and commitment to service deserve to be recognized and celebrated, and we hope this ceremony becomes a lasting tradition that continues for many years to come.”

“Whether through enlistment, ROTC, or appointment to a service academy, these students have committed themselves to protecting our nation and serving their communities,” said Morgan R. McIntosh. “This inaugural ceremony was an important opportunity to honor their dedication and the families who have supported them along the way.”

The Lake County Board of Commissioners plans to continue the Military Signing Ceremony annually to recognize future generations of service members and honor their dedication to the United States.

###