

Central Virginian's honor young recruits

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (NEWSPLEX) -- After high school graduation, people have a lot of choices on what they do next, but it's not often you see a celebration for those who choose to serve in the armed forces.

Well for the first time Central Virginian's did just that in a big way.

'Our Community Salutes' has made its way to Charlottesville. It's a national non-profit that works to [help](#) communities recognize and support students who join the armed forces. Saturday was the inaugural day of 'Our Community Salutes Central Virginia.'

62 area high school seniors were recognized for choosing to enlist instead of going straight to college or into a civilian career.

U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador Lettie Bien started a community salute in Miami and after moving to Charlottesville she saw a need for the same thing here. So she helped organize the new community salute.

"We need to recognize them, often times schools tend to forget how special they are," said Bien. "They'll recognize the kids who are going to college or the kids who got scholarships and these go unrecognized."

Bien adds she wants people to know that the armed forces is a profession. It's a choice and it's not a last resort for these students.

CBS 19's Tara Wheeler was the event's mistress of ceremonies and was joined by dozens of active service members, government officials and community members in saluting the young recruits.

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