

# Earning the right to sit at a desk--tribute to US Veterans

- Honoring our veterans--on Veterans Day--and year round! (Uploaded by Chaplain Doniel Kramer)

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Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

"Ms. Cothren, where are our desks??"

She replied, "You can not have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk."

They thought, "Well, maybe it is our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it is our behavior."

She told them, "No, it is not even your behavior."

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period.... Still no desks in the classroom.

By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk less classroom, Martha Cothren said, "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinary found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it.

Twenty-seven (27) United States Veterans, all in uniform, walked into the classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Veterans began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall.... By that time the last soldier had sent the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks has been earned.

Martha said, "You did not earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They

placed the desks here for you. Now, it is up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Do not ever forget it."