## Mattson Funeral Home Forest Lake, MN

Contact Name: Susan M. Hutchinson

It is the constant goal of Mattson Funeral Home and Cremation Service to strive for excellence in everything we do. We are continually looking for ways to improve our service to the community. In November 2005 funeral director, Susan M. Hutchison proposed an idea to fifteen local schools asking the students to draw a picture or compose a letter/essay for our local veterans. It was her goal to take all submitted documents and compile a "community scrapbook" to present to the local veterans during the Veterans Day services at the American Legion. She was hoping to have one book that could circulate throughout the community for others to enjoy.

The initial response was overwhelming, which led us to take this one step further. We ran an advertisement in the local newspaper, asking all members of the community to visit our website and download a PDF file and write a letter to our veterans.

On Veterans Day we had so many drawings/letters we were able to present two books, containing over 80 pages each to the VFW and the American Legion. We had enough left over to enable us to compile a book for us to display in the foyer of our funeral home. The success of this project has recently led us to add a link on our website from each deceased veteran's obituary page to the original PDF file so the books are continuing to grow.

This was such a simple way for us to help the community show our gratitude to all those who have served our country.