Apple Valley High School Agriculture Teacher Honored by Teachers R Heroes

Secretly, more then a 100 Apple Valley High School students, FFA participants, teachers, administrators, and family members gathered in a surprise noon-time, outdoor assembly to honor Duane Penfold with this month’s Teacher R Heroes award for his many years of dedicated service to students in the study of agriculture and animal science. There was no question about the popularity of this selection when students greeted him with a loud cheer and a standing ovation as he entered the arena.

Nominations for Mr. Penfold came from a large number of student, parents and fellow teachers. Excerpts of the nominations are as follows:

“He has helped my little sister develop her passion for horses and agriculture. I will be forever thankful that she enrolled in his Animal Science I class her freshman year.”

“Although I have only been enrolled in his class for 1 year, I feel like he has become my biggest roll model....And I like his shinny head.”

“He has taught me everything I know about animals and taught me to believe in myself when others couldn't.”

“Mr. Penfold is a wonderful teacher who is dedicated to his students always making himself available to them at ANY TIME of day or night. I have seen Mr Penfold come over to help us with our calf when it became sick and we had no money to pay for a vet. He took care of our animals that our daughters are raising in FFA. I now have a second child in his class and he is still tirelessly finding projects to learn about animals. He teaches from his heart. He always has a smile and is always ready to tackle any project. These projects help our students become better students and better adults. I have had the privilege of seeing his son also teach at the high school.”
Mr. Penfold is always present at all the meetings and events. He is responsible for raising an entire generation of quality adults... He is a Hero because he works more than an 8 hour day, especially during fair time. He does fund raisers for the kids. He is filled with love for his students and the profession. I know teachers don’t make great money but you’ll never hear him complain. I can’t thank him enough for taking the time to help my two kids and there animals."

The “Teachers are Heroes” program is sponsored by Victor Valley College and Eldorado Broadcasting. School participation is coordinated through San Bernardino County Schools. Participating businesses and agencies include Wal-Mart, Little Caesars Pizza, Red Robin Restaurants, Reed Foods, Taco Chon, Victorville Speed Wash, High Deseret Therapeutic, Seattle’s Best, Ultra Star Theaters, Horace Mann Insurance, First District Supervisor Brad Mizelfelt and the Daily Press.

Teacher nominations may be submitted in the form of 500 words-or-less essays to www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com, www.Y102FM.com, www.TheFox106.com, www.Talk960.com, or www.vvc.edu, or www.vvc.edu. Nominations may also be sent by mail to Victor Valley College, Teachers are Heroes, 18422 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA 92395, attention Dr. Lori Kildal.