Retiring Granite Hills World History and Government Teacher Honored by Teachers R Heroes

A special evening assembly scheduled for the Granite Hills High School Theater was co-opted by Teachers R Heroes to honor one of the school’s most beloved teachers, Mr. William McElree. Assembled students knew why the TRH entourage was present and were in on the surprise. Mr. McElree, who was not in attendance, was called at home and requested to come to the theater. He was given no reason for the need of his attendance. He arrived just as the program began. The surprise was complete and everyone especially Mr. McElree, his wife Charmian, and his son Patrick thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

Portions of the nominations that were submitted in support of Mr. McElree have a common thread that highlights his concern for students and his willingness to help. “Mr. Mac devotes much of his personal time towards furthering the education of his students. He keeps his classes interested while not deviating from the lecture, and never hesitates to help a student in need. He definitely gives off a friendly vibe and is easily approached. I have personally learned so much in his AP Government class, and I attributed this entirely to him. In my opinion, no teacher deserves this award more than Mr. McElree. He has truly been a great influence on my and many of my peers’ lives.”

Another student wrote, “Mr. Mac is a hero because he is very kind to all of his students, even the disruptive students. He is very passionate about teaching. He makes learning a relatively difficult course very easy by incorporating humor. His heroism is especially
evident in the way he treats all of his students equally and his ability to make each student feel like an important part of the class. Not only is he a hero to his students, but he is indirectly a hero to this nation by thoroughly informing his government students of the political world in which they are about to enter and vote. He has helped many apathetic students understand politics and where they stand. He never forces his opinions on his students, however difficult that must be, considering government is the subject with an extremely broad range of opinion. Mr. Mac teaches the AP United States Government and Politics course, and helps his students achieve passing scores on AP tests. By doing this, he is helping his students to progress by earning college credits. He definitely pushes his students to thrive, and his jolly nature brightens each of his student's day. It is an amazing experience to be able to learn from a teacher whose passion is what he teaches. Mr. Mac's deserves to be recognized for everything he does for his students.

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.