

Victor Valley College Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Granite Hills High School History Teacher Honored as “Teacher of the Month”

John Zachau, History teacher at Granite Hills High School in Apple Valley was honored this week as the teacher of the month in the Teachers are Heroes Program sponsored by Victor Valley College, San Bernardino County Schools, Clear Channel Radio, and Desert Community Bank.

The opening line of the nomination essay submitted by a student in one of Mr. Zachau’s classes stated, “A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself,” a quote attributed to Joseph Campbell. “My teacher is one of those people. He makes it impossible not to learn something and to apply this newly learned knowledge to one’s own life so as to never forget what was taught.

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I have had this instructor for two years now and for those two years he has been my favorite teacher. Mr Zachau has this charisma that you can not help but love.

When he lectures he jams you with information that you will for sure think you will never remember. But then he takes the key point and applies it to modern life so that way you will relate.

When I was switched into Mr Zachau's class last year, it was a pain to make up all the work which I doubt I ever did. I was only in his class for two to three months before I left Granite to go on home school. I was trying to juggle public school and taking care of my mom who was having mini strokes and to tell you the truth it wasn't working. But for the days that I was able to go to school I would always look forward to his class because it was the only one that took my mind off my mom.

When I came back to Granite for my junior year I had been put in his class once again and I loved it. I don't think he knows exactly how he influences his students but I can tell you when you are in his class the only thing on your mind is history, nothing else matters. That's one of the things his students appreciate, the fact that he pulls them out of their hectic lives and allows them to think for themselves. That's why this individual is a hero even if he has no clue he is one."

The Teachers are Heroes Program honors one K – 14 teacher every month out of the nearly 7,000 teachers in the High Desert.

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Teachers are selected based on essays submitted to Clear Channel Radio stations and then reviewed by a panel of judges. Honorees receive gift certificates for school supplies, a recognition plaque, and special treats for the classroom. At the end of the year, all twelve honorees and their students will be invited to an annual celebration held at a Maverick Stadium.

“We are honoring teachers who go above and beyond, be it in the classroom, the school, or the community,” said Lori Kildal, Ph.D. dean of instruction at Victor Valley College. Teacher nominations may be submitted in the form of 500 words-or-less essays to www.KATCOUNTRY1007.com, www.Y102FM.com, www.TheFox106.com, or www.Talk960.com, 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.

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