

At the Teacher of the Year awards ceremony, Lynsee felt overwhelmed and humbled to hear the firsthand accounts from her students on how she inspired them. She thanked God and believes He makes teachers special in Heaven, crafting them with hands to serve in an array of capacities and to be ready at any moment for anything.

Lynsee is currently a fifth-grade teacher of writing and social studies in Suwannee County. She has been instructing students for the past 14 years in grades ranging from second to eighth. At the University of Florida, she earned a bachelor's degree in advertising and holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Florida Gulf Coast University. While working as a substitute teacher, she fell in love with educating children and became certified through a transition-to-teaching program in Florida.

I express my best wishes to Lynsee for her dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO CATHY FELTY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Cathy Felty, the Bay County Teacher of the Year from Margaret K. Lewis School in Panama City, FL.

Cathy is the media guru at Margaret K. Lewis School, running the media center and striving to inspire her students to reach their full potential. According to her colleagues, the media center is the heart of Margaret K. Lewis School, and Cathy is its heartbeat. Many years ago, Cathy interned at an elementary school, and at the time, it was not what she was looking for. When a position opened up at Margaret K. Lewis, however, it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to her. She loves her job and focuses on doing what is best for her students.

After winning this award, Cathy took a flight in an adversary T-38 aircraft, becoming the first teacher to do so. While she considers herself a thrill-seeker, she was more focused on how to share this unique experience with her students. She plans to use her flight as an opportunity to work with students, teaching them about flight and the military. Her desire to incorporate personal experiences into her lesson plans demonstrates why she was named Teacher of the Year. In sum, she is always thinking of how to better the lives of her students.

Cathy has worked at Margaret K. Lewis School for 21 years and has been a pioneer for the creation of the school's media center. She specializes in helping and advocating for students with cognitive disabilities.

I would like to extend my best wishes to Cathy for her dedication to teaching for more than two decades. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LENORA HENDERSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Lenora Henderson, the Washington County Teacher of the Year from Chipley High School in Chipley, FL.

When Lenora began teaching chemistry, she quickly learned that her students became bored with lectures. They were more interested and performed better when they were doing more than just listening. She saw they loved being out of their seats, talking, and trying to figure things out on their own. As a result, she designed her lesson plans to include such activity.

Over the past few years, she developed a curriculum with the hopes of eventually flipping her classroom. Flipping means she has removed lectures from part of the curriculum and reserved that time for higher-order thinking skills and project-based learning.

Her regular and honors chemistry classes are partially flipped, while her advanced placement chemistry class is completely flipped. Her students use livescribes and a livebinder to retrieve background information before coming to class to discuss assignments. This allows more time in class for them to complete individual hands-on activities, laboratories, and cooperative learning activities.

Lenora was excited to receive the Teacher of the Year recognition, saying she has been waiting for a long time, but stated in her acceptance speech she knew this would happen on God's timing, not her own. Her faith plays a key role when it comes to teaching. She has been with the Washington County School District for 12 years.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Lenora for all of the hard work she does for her students. I extend my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO JOAN KENNETT

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Joan Kennett, the Walton County Teacher of the Year from South Walton High School in Santa Rosa Beach, FL.

Joan was in shock and humbled after she was named Teacher of the Year. She considers it an honor and privilege to represent every teacher and student in Walton County. She is a mentor to other teachers and an advocate for developing best classroom practices.

In the spring of 2017, Joan's students scored 97 percent and ranked fifth Statewide on the biology State test. She has also been awarded grants from Walton Education Foundation and the National Defense Industrial Association ACCELERator Program to enrich students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Besides helping her students in the classroom, Joan also assists with var-

ious school organizations. Joan motivates student leaders within the school and community as the Student Government Association sponsor and helps with projects such as the Senior Citizen Prom.

Joan earned her bachelor of science degree from Kennesaw State College and received her gifted credentials from West Georgia State College. She has taught in Georgia, Indiana, and Florida, and has now taught biology for 27 years, with 5 years at South Walton High School.

I congratulate Joan for receiving this important recognition after decades of teaching. I express my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA MCGHEE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Amanda McGhee, the Calhoun County Teacher of the Year from Blountstown High School in Blountstown, FL.

As a teenager, Amanda felt that high school was a place with caring teachers who took the time to teach the content while maintaining discipline and, at the same time, asking about your sick brother or sister at home. She thought these teachers seemed to know everything about their students and admired their notion to care for students.

She is inspired every day to bring this same feeling of connectedness, hope, and a passion for learning to her students. She seeks to pass along what was given to her and seeks to validate, teach, and inspire the next generation.

Amanda's colleagues say she teaches her students the foundational skills and then acts as a facilitator that nurtures their ideas to create video game apps, build robots, create videos, use 3D printers, and fly drones to record video. She also teaches her students strategies for critical thinking and involves them in project-based learning that allows them to apply their mathematical skills.

Amanda has been a teacher at Blountstown High School for more than 10 years. Currently, she teaches advanced placement science, along with experimental science, digital media, and aerospace technologies in conjunction with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

I would like to thank Amanda for her hard work to provide students with a successful learning environment. I extend my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO LYNN MONGIARDINI

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Lynn Mongiardini, the Charlotte County Teacher of the Year from Sallie Jones Elementary School in Punta Gorda, FL.

Lynn received the Teacher of the Year award because of her dedication