

to her students to equip them with the necessary skills needed to achieve success in both the classroom and real world. She is a member of the district core team responsible for the roll out of the comprehensive literacy framework. Her passion is finding ways to improve students' thinking around academic and social challenges by actively contributing to the growth mindset in professional learning communities and its philosophies.

As both a parent and a teacher, Lynn understands the needs of her students and their families. She uses this understanding to create a nurturing classroom environment that fosters the highest level of learning.

Lynn has been teaching in Charlotte County schools since 2006. She has served as an educator for the second, third, and fifth grades at Peace River Elementary, Myakka River Elementary, and currently at Sallie Jones Elementary School.

I extend my best wishes to Lynn for her hard work and dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the upcoming years.●

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN O'HORA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Martin O'Hora, the Highlands County Teacher of the Year from Avon Park High School in Avon Park, FL.

Martin says he has always wanted to be a teacher thanks to his parents, who served as teachers for more than 30 years. Their dedication to teaching helped guide him to becoming a teacher himself, and he knew how important it is for students to have a positive influence in their lives.

Martin's colleagues and students attest to his commitment as a teacher and coach by noting he is someone they can always come to for advice and help. Martin received this important recognition because he fulfills and exceeds all that is expected from teachers.

Martin has been at Avon Park High School since 2014, teaching exceptional student education and algebra before his current resource position at the school, while also coaching the boys basketball team. He started teaching in the district in 2011 at Hill-Gustate Middle School.

I would like to extend my best wishes to Martin for his hard work and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO SARAH ANNE ELIZABETH ORAVEC

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Sarah Anne Elizabeth Oravec, the DeSoto County Teacher of the Year from Arcadia, FL.

Sarah received the Teacher of the Year award for her exemplary enthusiasm, innovative teaching approaches, and genuine concern for education.

Her dedication to achieving excellence has earned her an enviable reputation as an excellent teacher and

coach who truly cares about people and is generous with her time. Sarah demonstrates the highest level of professional commitment and competency in her work with students and colleagues.

Sarah has been a valued teacher in the DeSoto school district for more than 3 years and 5 months as the District ESOL Instructional Coach. Her positive attitude, hard work, and respect for children is a true asset to DeSoto County.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Sarah and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE TINSLEY PEEL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I commend Catherine Tinsley Peel, the Holmes County Teacher of the Year from Ponce de Leon Elementary School in Ponce de Leon, FL.

After Catherine won the Teacher of the Year award, she noted that, when new challenges arise daily in the educational field, she approaches them with excitement and suspense. She has a passion to help students in her hometown to become the best academically and socially.

Knowing she can help students inspired her to become a teacher, and each time she receives a handwritten note, card, or illustration saying they appreciate her, she considered it proof that she is doing her job correctly. While teaching requires many demands, she would not trade it for anything because she gets to make a difference in children's daily lives.

Catherine is a fourth grade teacher at Ponce de Leon Elementary school. She is a Ponce de Leon High School alumni who has taught first and third grades, but has now found her home teaching fourth grade.

I congratulate Catherine for her hard work and commitment to teaching her students. I express my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER PHILLIPS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I commend Heather Phillips, the Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year from Bluewater Elementary School in Niceville, FL.

Heather knows that being an educator is never predictable, and she thrives on the ever-changing nature of her profession. Heather was humbled to be considered among such an immensely talented group of educators and considers it an honor to represent her school, and district, as its Teacher of the Year.

She loves seeing the world through the eyes of children and allows their energy to influence her focus on what truly matters. Her teaching experiences in Japan and Hong Kong helped her appreciate diversity, and she works

to implement these experiences in the classroom.

Heather is a 15-year educator who currently teaches fourth grade. She is an active member of her church in Niceville and enjoys being part of the community.

I am pleased to congratulate Heather for her dedication to teaching her students. I extend my best wishes to Heather and look forward to learning of her continued success in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO CHELSEA SMITH

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Chelsea Smith, the Hamilton County Teacher of the Year from Hamilton County Elementary School in Jasper, FL.

Chelsea believes it is important to show her students that she cares about them being successful as individuals. Her students come to her from various socioeconomic backgrounds and academic capabilities, but they all seek success.

According to Chelsea, her educational philosophy is based on teaching students to learn how to deal with frustrations in order to break the learning barrier. Her students can then work on academically improving oneself to become proficient. Implementation of enrichment opportunities should be incorporated to challenge students once they have achieved mastery of grade level skills.

Chelsea says each student has a different mindset for what success means. It is her responsibility to seek out the individual and determine what he or she needs in order to be triumphant. Her students begin class by knowing they will search for whatever opportunity today's class will bring in order to achieve individual success. Every day, once all students are in her classroom, she counts to three, and they recite the quote: I am important. I am intelligent. I will do my best. I will seek opportunity over obligation.

Chelsea has a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education and a master of education degree in education leadership education and training management/instructional technology. She has taught fifth or sixth grade since 2013.

I am pleased to recognize Chelsea for her dedication to providing her students with the opportunity to be successful. I extend my best wishes to her and look forward to hearing of her continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO FIRST SERGEANT TERRY WALKER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor 1SG Terry Walker, the Jefferson County Teacher of the Year from Jefferson K-12 Somerset School in Monticello, FL.

Terry has been a valued member of the Jefferson County School District for 9 years as the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor. He is a