



Flagstaff Unified School District

Marshall Magnet School

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Proclamation

WHEREAS the students of Marshall have long benefitted from the service of Mr. William Weldon and have learned from his example what faithful service, steadfast reliability, and...

I can't do it.

I can't continue using all this formal language, these whereases and wherefores, to talk about Mr. Billy and all that he, as the former commander of the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and, even more importantly, our ever-faithful, ever-reliable morning and after-school crossing guard means to the students, parents and staff at Marshall Magnet School.

Mr. Billy shows us, everyday, by example what it means to care, what it means to serve, and what it means to be a friend. For some of us, Mr. Billy may be the only Purple Heart recipient we know. Fortunately, he represents the very best attributes of the Order.

He does this very time he shows up, even in the rain and snow, to hold up his sign time after time, perhaps as many as a hundred times each day, to ensure that our students will be able to safely cross Bonito Street.

He does this every time he waves and smiles at a mom or dad as they drive away from the school on their way to work.

He does this with each high-five that he offers, with each gleeful gig that he dances, with each "Happy Tuesday" that he cheerful announces to the children as they walk past him.

The only time Mr. Billy doesn't do these things is when he's *not* on duty as the world's most reliable *volunteer* crossing guard at Marshall. And on those days we all know why. It's because he's standing graveside somewhere, attending the funeral of another fallen comrade, someone who served his country and was wounded in the process, just as Mr. Billy was.

According to Wikipedia "The Purple Heart differs from most other [military] decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria."

The same is true of this proclamation today.

HENCEFORTH Marshall Magnet School shall be known as a Purple Heart School, the first of its kind in northern Arizona. By so labeling our school in this way, we hope to honor all Purple Heart veterans, and most especially Mr. William Weldon, Mr. Billy, for the "specific criteria" of faithfulness, friendship, and fidelity that he has modeled for all of us at Marshall, each and every day.

WHEREAS Purple Heart recipient, Mr Billy, has faithfully and consistently represented the aforementioned traits and characteristics to all of us, Marshall School shall henceforth be known as a Purple Heart School and fly this Purple Heart flag in his honor, and in honor of all wounded soldiers like him.

Thank you.