

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY CROWDER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Kimberly Crowder, the Hamilton County Teacher of the Year from Hamilton County Elementary School in South Jasper, FL.

Kimberly works to help each student be their best and considers herself blessed to play an important part in their lives by shaping them for success. She designs her lesson plans to meet the needs of her students.

Kimberly is most proud of her recent contribution where she revised her school's intervention instructions. Their new plan for students implements prescriptive intervention tactics to improve their achievements in the classroom by focusing on their personal needs.

Kimberly serves as a pre-K through fifth grade reading interventionist and the curriculum coordinator at her school. She has been with the Hamilton County School District since 2007, teaching kindergarten, first, and second grade students.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Kimberly for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JANAN HODGES

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Janan Hodges, the Seminole County Teacher of the Year from Spring Lake Elementary School in Altamonte Springs, FL.

Janan holds high expectations for her students, in which she ensures her classroom represents achievement and belonging. She does this by cultivating class rules that are innovative and engaging.

Janan also develops resiliency skills to benefit student success from elementary school and beyond. She works tirelessly to know each student, finding their strengths and helping limit their weaknesses.

Janan teaches third grade and is a team leader at Spring Lake Elementary School, where she has taught for 4 of her 16-year educator career. She is her school's New Educator Support Team lead teacher, where she works with new instructors and dedicates time to mentor them.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Janan for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAREN KEARNEY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Karen Kearney, the Alachua County Teacher of the Year from Buchholz High School in Gainesville, FL.

Karen's lifelong passion has been to be a teacher. As a child, she would teach and pretend to grade the assignments of her stuffed animals. Today, she works to ensure her school is the

best in Florida and instills her belief that students are happiest and strongest when engaged in a lifelong pursuit of learning.

Karen's teaching philosophy relies on students having personal power and a positive outlook when it comes to fulfilling their dreams and reaching their full potential. She instills in her students that education is a major tool in that process and can be a helpful advantage when setting realistic dream expectations.

Karen is an alumna of Buchholz High School and spent 5 years working in chiropractic therapy before becoming a teacher. She earned her bachelor of science degree in nutrition and her doctor of chiropractic degree from Life University and her teaching certificate in broad field secondary science from the State University of West Georgia. In addition to her work in the classroom, she has been a teacher mentor since 2006 and has served as department chair since 2019.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Karen for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTYN PHILIP KELLER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Justyn Philip Keller, the Teacher of the Year for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Johns County, FL.

For high school, Justyn attended the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind after losing his sight in a random incident. He credits his teachers and the staff members who helped him learn and get through that difficult period of his life.

Halfway through college, much of Justyn's vision returned. He then felt a calling to come home to teach and give back to the community that supported him during his time of need. He enjoys teaching visually impaired students not only because it is challenging, but because he relates to the struggles they are experiencing.

Justyn teaches math at the Blind Middle School and has taught for 5 years. He attended Flagler College and the Baptist College of Florida. He holds a Florida Visually Impaired K-12 Professional Educator's Certificate, is the boys' goalball team assistant coach, and is the Young Life Team coordinator.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Justyn for his commitment to his students. I look forward to hearing about his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIA MAYESHIBA

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Julia Mayeshiba, the Duval County Teacher of the Year from Andrew Jackson High School of Advanced Technology in Jacksonville, FL.

Julia initiated an afterschool tutoring system for math and physics students seeking extra help in these challenging subjects. She often meets with students one-on-one to address their concerns and to instill the importance of learning as they seek to further their educational goals.

Julia also develops schoolwide incentives to reward good student behaviors. She believes this further motivates a student to try their best throughout the school year. Julia believes that when her students leave her classroom, they should feel confident to ask for help to ensure success later in life.

Julia has been a math and physics teacher at Andrew Jackson High School of Advanced Technology for the past 4 years. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015 with her bachelor's degree and from the University of North Florida in 2019 with her master's degree. She is a Robert Noyce National Science Foundation teaching fellow and is her school's senior class sponsor.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Julia for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SARA MESSER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Sara Messer, the Columbia County Teacher of the Year from Pinemount Elementary School in Lake City, FL.

Sara's favorite aspect of being a teacher is that she works on building positive relationships and guides students to believe in themselves to become lifelong learners. She spends each day with her students by instilling the importance of reading and ensuring they work together throughout the school year to be successful.

Sara has been a second grade teacher at Pinemount Elementary School since 2018. She graduated from Florida Gateway College, Saint Leo University, and American College of Education. Sara enjoys spending time with her family and caring for farm animals in her spare time.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Sara for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO HEATHER DAWN MILLER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Heather Dawn Miller, the Clay County Teacher of the Year from Lake Asbury Elementary School in Green Cove Springs, FL.

Heather hopes to spark interest and passion in her students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through her work, she spends each school day working to help her students interested in STEM.

Heather also works with her colleagues to facilitate collaborative

learning opportunities that help students achieve their academic goals and interpersonal needs. Her students see how the skills she teaches them can be used after graduation.

Heather is a fourth grade math and science teacher at Lake Asbury Elementary School and has taught for 25 years. She also works as a teacher model classroom, is the math field day coach, and serves as a professional learning community leader by helping other teachers create lesson plans and assignments.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Heather for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO VONDA MORRIS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Vonda Morris, the Volusia County Teacher of the Year from Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange, FL.

Vonda knew she wanted to be a teacher since she was a child when she would line up her dolls to teach them math. While her dolls could not flee her lessons, Vonda realized she had to develop math curriculum that would make her students want to learn. Today, Vonda's math lessons use dance and song to help her students absorb the material.

Vonda wants learning to be fun and meaningful. She knows each day is not easy for her students, so she works to not only teach them, but to also be someone they can talk to.

Vonda is a probability and statistics/AP statistics teacher at Spruce Creek High School. She has taught for more than 20 years at the middle, high, and college levels. Vonda earned her bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and her master's from Concordia University and Stetson University.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Vonda for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA ODOM

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Jessica Odom, the Baker County Teacher of the Year from Baker County Middle School in Macclenny, FL.

Jessica works daily to develop lesson plans that make learning enjoyable for her students. In her science classes, she engages her students in physics and works with them as the school's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Club coach.

Jessica credits her family and friends for helping her become a teacher. They motivate her to develop engaging curriculum that allow her students to be successful. With their support, she received this important recognition from her peers.

Jessica has taught sixth and seventh grade science at Baker County Middle

School for the past 7 years and is on the campus tech support team. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of North Florida and her master's degree in educational leadership from American University. She served as a food service specialist in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves from 2008–2016 at Naval Station Mayport.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Jessica for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TIFFANY PERRY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Tiffany Perry, the Osceola County Teacher of the Year from East Lake Elementary School in Kissimmee, FL.

Tiffany makes it her mission to know her students well. She encourages her students to be authentic and show their uniqueness. Tiffany prefers to hear their voice in the classroom more than her own.

Tiffany applied Socratic Seminars to help improve writing skills by having her students ask and answer questions together by using critical thinking and encouraging different viewpoints. She also teaches her students to focus on the engineering design process by working with them to code robots.

Tiffany teaches fifth grade at East Lake Elementary School. She also serves as her school's grade-level chairman, helps model lessons for other teachers, and trains teachers on various strategies to use in the classroom.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Tiffany for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN ROMAGNOLO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Robin Romagnolo, the Levy County Teacher of the Year from Bronson Elementary School in Bronson, FL.

Robin adapts her way of work to meet her students' needs and challenges. She focuses each day on how to inspire and instill high expectations in their mentality to be successful in her classroom and as they further their education.

Robin designs her lesson plans to keep her students engaged throughout the school day. When they leave her class, they often perform with a mastery of standards for their grade. Her work frequently has other teachers seeking her mentorship at their school.

Robin has taught at Bronson Elementary School for 6 years and teaches third grade. She began teaching in Levy County with Pre-Kindergarten students 15 years ago. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees while working in the county.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Robin for her commitment to her students. I look forward to

hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LORI SADLER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Lori Sadler, the Lafayette County Teacher of the Year from Lafayette High School in Mayo, FL.

Lori's students often score above State averages, which she credits to their hard work in the classroom and at home. She has worked with students of all ages throughout her teaching career, providing her with ample examples of how best to design her lesson plans.

Lori has spent time as an eighth grade English Language Arts teacher, the English Language Arts department chair, and the school's yearbook sponsor. She also holds English as a second language and reading endorsements for teaching.

Lori is in her 22nd year as a teacher, spending the last 16 years at her school. She graduated from the University of South Florida with her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and from Southeastern University with her master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Lori for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA SAULS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Amanda Sauls, the Nassau County Teacher of the Year from Callahan Intermediate School in Callahan, FL.

Amanda approaches each new school year by knowing parents entrust her with their children, which is an opportunity to start fresh with a new class. As a teacher, she believes she has the privilege of investing in her students' hearts and minds every day they come to learn.

Amanda's teaching philosophy is that she can create lifelong learners and build relationships with students, their families, and the community. She encourages her students to learn and tirelessly works with them on each step to success.

Amanda is a fourth grade math, science, and social studies teacher at Callahan Intermediate School.

I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Amanda for her commitment to her students. I look forward to hearing about her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRICE LEE WINFREE, JR.

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Brice Lee Winfree, Jr., the Flagler County Teacher of the Year from Matanzas High School in Palm Coast, FL.

Brice feels a renewed sense of accomplishment when teaching new students