



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. President Honors Local JROTC Instructor for Answering the Call of Duty and Community

*South View High School JROTC Instructor Ruby Murray wins prestigious
honors
for military and volunteer service*

Fayetteville, N.C. – April is National Volunteer Month—a month dedicated to highlighting the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society’s greatest challenges, build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. There are many shining examples of volunteerism in Cumberland County Schools (CCS), and one of the district’s premier professionals has received national recognition for her volunteer efforts in the community.

For her dedication to building a stronger community through volunteer service, Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Ruby Murray, the JROTC Instructor at South View High School (SVHS), was recently awarded the 2021 President’s Lifetime Achievement Award by President Joseph R. Biden. This award is the highest designation of the President’s Volunteer Service Award. It honors individuals whose service positively impacts their communities and inspires those around them to serve. To earn the Lifetime Achievement Award, an individual dedicates 4,000 hours or more to volunteer service.

Throughout her 26 years of military service and her work as an educator, Murray has maintained a passion for volunteerism and an unwavering commitment to the success of her students, school and community.

When asked if the Lifetime Achievement Award means that she is done volunteering, Murray responded with a resounding, “Never! I hit 4,000 community hours in 2021. I truly believe that — until the day I die — I will continue to volunteer for my country, my state and definitely my community. When duty calls, this great American will be present for duty.”

The Lifetime Achievement Award is not the only recognition Murray has recently received. The 56th Quartermaster Corps announced that she is being

inducted as a member of the [Quartermaster Hall of Fame \(QHOF\) Class of 2021](#). This designation is the highest form of recognition the Corps offers and honors individuals who have made the most significant contributions to the overall history and traditions of the Quartermaster Corps.

Of the 22 inductees for 2021, only two were female, and there were no female inductees in 2020. Female service members make up just 15.5% of the U.S. Army. “I’m just honored to be representing women,” remarked Murray.

“To be standing amongst a lot of prestigious men that this award was also given to, I’m grateful to show other women that we can do it! You don’t have to be perfect — you just have to do your job.”

Murray called upon families and community members to consider opportunities to volunteer in CCS schools. “School engagement doesn’t start in the classroom. It starts at home and in the community. We had major setbacks in 2020. We have to come back in full force and show that #CumberlandStrong means parenting strong — it means success as a village.”

“Volunteer your time, be a positive vessel, volunteer at the concession stand or parking lot at sporting events,” suggested Murray. “Businesses and organizations can educate students about how we can impact and come together as a whole. We can’t do anything without outside resources. In CCS, we have our own resources, but having and utilizing outside resources can make everything possible.”

CCS recently announced that, after two years of COVID-19 restrictions limiting school visitors, the district is welcoming a vital resource back into schools — volunteers. In [The Cumberland Commitment: Strategic Plan 2024](#), CCS identified four strategic priorities that, when implemented, will help every student achieve success at school and in life.

Priority number four in the district’s strategic plan is Committed Community. The goal is to collectively engage schools, parents and the community in building student success. CCS has numerous ways for community members to get involved and support every student in reaching their maximum potential.

There are 89 schools in CCS and numerous opportunities to make a lasting impact in each one. To learn more about mentoring, volunteering and other support options, visit www.ceo.ccs.k12.nc.us.



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