

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
RECOGNITION**

HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME

DONALD R. MORRISON

April 22, 2013

Background Information:

In October 2000, the Harford County Public School System began an Educator Hall of Fame program, in which the Board of Education of Harford County inducts one member into the “Hall” each month during the school year. Former Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) educators who have provided at least 20 years of extraordinary service to students and staff in the school system are considered for nomination by the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association (HCRSPA). The nominee is prominently featured on the Harford County Public Schools website, www.hcps.org. The nominee (or his/her family in case the nominee is deceased or unavailable) is also honored at a subsequent Board of Education meeting where he/she is presented with a plaque, as well as a Board certificate and certificates from County and State government officials.

Discussion:

Donald R. Morrison was born and raised in Harford County and is a proud 1962 graduate of Edgewood High School. He received his associate degree from Harford Junior College (now Harford Community College) in 1968, and he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Towson State College (now Towson University) in 1970. In 1978, he earned his master’s equivalency as a result of graduate work at Morgan State and Towson State. Mr. Morrison was a teacher and coach at Aberdeen High School for 8.5 years, from 1970 to 1978. He loved the interaction with the students, especially when they came to realize how important an understanding of history was to their lives. Teaching mostly juniors and seniors, he was able to see his students mature and develop purpose for their lives. In addition, as both a basketball and baseball coach, he was afforded the opportunity to share his passion for sports with his students and get to know them on a far more personal level. One of his many accomplishments at Aberdeen High was organizing the annual Human Relations Day, where representatives from various human services organizations visited the school to talk one-on-one with the more than 1,700 students about issues impacting their lives. After leaving the classroom to work full-time for 15 years at the local newspaper, Mr. Morrison returned to the school system to serve as Director of Public Information. In this role, he attempted to use every means possible to communicate the success stories of Harford County Public Schools to the public. He was the first line of contact for many parents and community members who were seeking information or needed an explanation for an aspect of the system’s operation. He enjoyed the unexpected nature of his job as a school system spokesman and the opportunity to deal with people at all levels – from the Superintendent to students – representing them to the public the best way he knew how. He worked with the Harford Cable Network to develop sports telecasts and shows about various aspects of the school system; converted the Harford Schools newspaper from an internal newsletter to a commercially-printed tabloid distributed to employees, students, retired employees and community leaders; introduced the HCPS website and an automated telephone

notification system; and created the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame and the Teacher of the Year recognition program, among other notable undertakings. Mr. Morrison received a Governor's Citation for Outstanding Service, as well as awards from various organizations, before retiring in 2008 to spend time with his family and allow for fresh leadership in his position.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County induct Mr. Donald R. Morrison into the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame as its 176th member in recognition of his 23 years of extraordinary service to the students, staff and community of the Harford County Public Schools as a teacher and administrator.

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HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME

**REBECCA J. GAULT
BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

April 22, 2013

Background Information:

The National Teachers Hall of Fame (NTHF), located in Emporia, Kansas, was founded in 1989 by Emporia State University (ESU), the ESU Alumni Association, the City of Emporia, USD 253 and the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce as a tribute to our nation's most important profession—teaching. The Hall of Fame is committed to drawing the public's attention to exceptional PreK-12 teachers through a museum, teacher resource center and recognition program, which honors five of the nation's most outstanding PreK-12 educators each year. The NTHF is the only facility of its kind dedicated to recognizing career teachers, to preserving and promoting education and to serving our country by inspiring others to enter the teaching profession. A National Selection Committee representing educational organizations, NTHF membership and corporate America consider nominations from a pool of certified public or non-public teachers, active or retired, who have at least 20 years of full-time experience teaching in grades PreK-12. Induction activities occur annually in Emporia, Kansas.

Discussion:

Harford County Public Schools teacher Mrs. Rebecca Gault was surprised at a special assembly held at her school on April 9, when she learned that she was selected as one of the top five teachers in America and will be celebrated during a three-day induction into The National Teachers Hall of Fame June 12-14, in Emporia, Kansas. A 22-year veteran of teaching, Mrs. Gault teaches sixth grade Language Arts at Bel Air Middle School. She is the third teacher and first female from Maryland to be inducted into The National Teachers Hall of Fame. This June, Mrs. Gault will join teachers from Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma for a series of recognition events in Emporia, Kansas, which include working with high school attendees at a Future Teacher Academy on the Emporia State University campus, a live streamed roundtable discussion, community events and a banquet and induction ceremony. The five inductees will also be honored at a reception hosted by the National Education Association on May 3 at their Washington DC headquarters—just in time to kick off National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10. Mrs. Gault's full biography, as well as the biographies of the other class of 2013 teachers, will be available at www.nthf.org beginning April 20.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County congratulate Mrs. Rebecca J. Gault on being selected for induction into The National Teachers Hall of Fame in recognition of her 22 years of extraordinary service to her students, staff and community as a public schools teacher and wish her continued success in her career with Harford County Public Schools.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
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“BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION”

April 22, 2013

Background Information:

The NAMM Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing active participation in music-making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs from the international music products industry. The NAMM Foundation recently announced the results of its 14th annual “Best Communities for Music Education” survey, which acknowledges schools and districts across the U.S. for their commitment to and support of music education in schools. The 2013 survey was available to all districts nationwide. Teachers and school district administrators, representing communities across the country, participated in the web-based survey. Nearly 2,000 districts and schools participated in the survey this year. The districts were measured across curricular and programmatic criteria as well as public support of their music programs. The survey was developed and administered by The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

Discussion:

This year, Harford County Public Schools has been designated a “Best Community.” Each school receiving the “Best Communities” designation scored in the 80th percentile or higher in the survey’s grading process. Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and other relevant factors in their communities’ music education programs. The responses were verified with district officials, and advisory organizations reviewed the data.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County commend Supervisor of Music Jim Boord and the entire HCPS Music Department on this accomplishment and wish the department continued success.