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## **NEWS RELEASE** July 17, 2015

## **Carter County Schools Staff Member** Wins Statewide Service Award

(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) announced Marvin McHenry, custodian for Carter County Schools, as the winner of its annual Fred Award July 17, 2015 at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

Part of a special ceremony recognizing the three finalists, this award was presented at the culmination of the KASA Annual Leadership Institute, the largest gathering of school administrators statewide.

The Fred Award recognizes non-administrative staff, students, and volunteers statewide whose daily efforts are deemed extraordinary and integral to a positive learning atmosphere in their school communities. The first Fred Award was presented to Mr. Fred Strange, a custodian at Grant's Lick Elementary School in Campbell County in 2008.

McHenry is known primarily for his devotion to lifelong learning and passion for student engagement. A self-taught expert in fly-fishing, small engine repair, photography, the Civil War, and many others, Marvin is constantly learning and sharing his knowledge.

McHenry engages kids through various hands-on activities that make them eager to come to school. Each year, he dresses up as Santa, visiting each classroom so all the students get a chance to see Santa. He also brings in a refurbished horse-drawn sleigh for the lobby that students can sit in. He also prepares an annual Veterans Day display with photos and memorabilia from the wars in which United States soldiers have fought.



Marvin McHenry Carter Co. Schools

A frequent guest speaker in classrooms, Marvin often showcases Appalachian artifacts he has collected and teaches students about tools and techniques used by pioneers. In addition, he greets each student at the crosswalk in the mornings, a job he volunteered to do the first year he started working at Heritage Elementary School.

McHenry is also known for his care for others. Each morning, he unlocks all the teachers' doors before they arrive, helps teachers carry in packages and other classroom materials, and has been known to change flat tires or

jump-start cars for parents and staff alike.

"Students see in him the kind of work ethic, attitude, and determination they will need in order to learn to read, master multiplication, or overcome bad home situations. Parents see him as someone they trust their kids with and someone they can depend on. Staff members, including myself, see Marvin as a true friend and a shining example of how to love life and how to love others, " nominator and Heritage Elementary Principal J.C. Perkins said.

"Marvin is truly an exceptional individual with an unconditional devotion to the people surrounding him. The example he sets for these children, daily, is one of pride in the work, service to others, and community-based thinking that brings out the leader in each of these children. We are inspired and honored to present him with this well-deserved award," KASA Deputy Director Rhonda Caldwell said.

Video footage captured in each of the finalists' districts will be presented during the final award presentation July 17, 2015 at KASA's Annual Leadership Institute & Expo in Louisville. Each finalist will receive a \$250 check, overnight lodging at the Galt House Hotel, and a distinguished marble plaque detailing the award. The winner will receive a \$500 check.

Other finalists for the award are Jim Oliver, volunteer and substitute, Lancaster



McHenry greets students every morning as part of his duties with overseeing the crosswalk, a job he volunteered for in his first year at Heritage Elementary.





Elementary, Garrard County Schools; and Bobby Kelly, maintenance technician, Hickman County Schools. More information about the finalists can be found at www. kasa.org.

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators is the largest school administrators group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,000 education leaders from across the Commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky's school administrators.

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McHenry enjoys sharing his knowledge about pioneer and Appalachian history with the children at Heritage Elementary.

