



Gene Burton, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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Principal

To Whom It May Concern:

The story of Michael E. Thornton, war hero and Medal of Honor recipient, is adequately and impressively profiled in the book *Medal of Honor - Portraits of Valor beyond the Call of Duty*. Yet the telling of the personal sacrifices depicting courage and servitude to our country is best told in first person by Retired Navy Seal Mike Thornton himself.

On Constitution Day 2005, our school was privileged to host Mr. Thornton as our distinguished guest speaker. Before his speech, our students knew little about war and war heroes and even less about Medal of Honor winners. Prior to the speech, Michael E. Thornton was represented as a picture and story in a book. In a very personable style, about a war plagued with misery, Mr. Thornton spoke on a level that captivated even the most reluctant patriot. Our time with Mr. Thornton was considered a highlight for students and staff alike. From his presentation, Mike emerged as more than a published account of an American hero from the Viet-Nam struggle. Our students benefited from hearing directly from a Navy Seal who bravely served his country and continues to serve *beyond the call of duty* through his speaking venue.

There are few good words to describe what it is like to meet a true hero, especially one who risked his life for ours. It is even more humbling to meet a man who is a distinguished hero who treats others as his equal. Although I am sure that Mike Thornton did not enlist in the Navy to become a hero, he cannot change what he has become. He is a man of valor.

I would encourage any group who believes in the integrity and hope of our country to invite Michael E. Thornton to share his experiences and continued support for our nation.

Sincerely,

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