

***** Press Release *****

**Presentation of American Flag from Capital Building
to Joann Simkins, District 50 School Teacher,
in recognition of 45 years of Teaching**

Today I am honored to be joined here by six other local community leaders. Before going forward, I want to introduce myself and let these gentlemen and lady introduce themselves.

- A) John Ackerman, attended Beverly Manor from K – 8, Graduate of District 50 Schools, past Washington City Council Alderman, Currently serving on the Tazewell County Board.
- B) Scott Allison, attended Beverly Manor K – 7, current District 50 teacher, active Northern Tazewell Recreation Association member
- C) Tonya Bader, attended Beverly Manor K – 8, Graduate of District 50 Schools, current District 50 teacher
- D) Josh Zaiser, attended Beverly Manor K – 8, Graduate of District 50 Schools, current District 50 teacher, active Northern Tazewell Recreation Association member
- E) John Zaiser, attended Beverly Manor K – 8, Graduate of District 50 Schools, past District 50 School Board Member, current District 701 (Deer Creek – Mackinaw) School Board Member, currently Country Company's Agent
- F) Patrick Sams, attended Beverly Manor K – 8, Graduate of District 50 Schools, President and active member of Northern Tazewell Recreation Association

The six of us have several things in common as you just heard. We all attended this school, mostly within a small four year time period. We all have and currently serve the citizens of the area in multiple local leadership roles. We are all fairly young and not that far removed from our days here at District 50. And there is one more item that all six of us share. That is the reason we are here today.

Teachers truly are an invaluable resource. Weather you realize it or not, the teachers you have today will remain with you throughout your life. Not only the subjects they teach you in the classrooms, but the gathering of you and your fellow classmates with a teacher will stick with you throughout your travels.

Upon meeting a fellow classmate years from now, long after you have graduated and left this institution, you will happen to run into another classmate and the stories will start. Remember when so and so did this in Mr. Zaiser's class. Remember that trip we took with Mr. Batson's band. Remember the year the baseball team won the championship.

Your years here at this school, and the great teachers this institution has continually supplied this community through the years, will continue to be a part of your life and inspire you in ways you do not even realize right now.

We are here today to recognize one of those great teachers; a teacher that has impacted all six of us and a teacher that is leaving this school this year after 45 years of service. Mrs. Simkins will you please join us.

The six of us represent just a small fraction of the community leaders that have been blessed with your teachings. When you think that the six of us for the most part graduated within a small four year time period, can you imagine how many more community leaders are available from your other classes, and also how many more leaders are in these more recent classes. Your teachings have and will continue to influence Central Illinois leaders for a long time to come.

As a former student of this building, one thing that sticks in my mind was the Flag on display in the hallway that was flown above the US Capital Building. I remember standing in the hallway, looking at the flag, and reading the certificate that went with the flag. Right there in front of me was the symbol of our nation, the banner we cling to, and one that was flown above the honorable building in which our government meets. To have one of these flags and certificates is a treasure and a piece of history.

Mrs. Simkins, it is our honor to present you with one such flag in recognition of your 45 years of service.

(Mr. Allison presented her the United States Flag that was flown above the US Capital at the request of Congressman Aaron Schock. Congressman Schock also had a statement that was read to her.)

John C. Ackerman
(309) 635-7624
www.JohnCAckerman.com