



DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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May 3, 2004

Dear Teachers:

On the eve of National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 4, and during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-8, I would like to thank each of you for the outstanding, lasting contributions you make every day. Designated by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Teacher Appreciation Week came about through the efforts of Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge. In 1944 she began corresponding with political and education leaders to convince them to honor teachers. She wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt who in 1953 persuaded the 81<sup>st</sup> Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day.

I have seen first-hand how selflessly you continue to give of your time and your expertise. There is so much more that isn't readily apparent, but obvious nonetheless. During this time of heavy deployments, homecomings and redeployments, you are the one constant upon which our students, families and communities can depend. You provide not only a first-class education to every student, but also a safe haven.

Thank you for your devotion, professionalism and understanding. Together we will continue to ensure that we provide an excellent education for every child.

With admiration,

Elaine Beraza Hinman  
Director, Domestic Schools/DoDDS Cuba