



DOMESTIC DEPENDENT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

700 Westpark Drive, Peachtree City GA 30269

(678)364-8000/(770)632-8720 (fax)

April 29, 2005

Dear DDESS Faculty and Staff:

It is with a great deal of gratitude that I have the opportunity to thank each of you for your dedication and commitment to educating our military dependent children. National Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 3, and National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1-7. This year's theme is "Thank a teacher for making public schools great!"

Around 1944 Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodridge began corresponding with political and education leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers. Woodridge wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt who in 1953 persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day. That has evolved into our week-long celebration sponsored by the National Parent Teacher Association (NPTA).

You help establish and maintain the invaluable partnerships our schools have with parents, community members, commanders and PTAs. Together you work to offer our students unlimited opportunities to reach high expectations and instill in them a dedication to lifelong learning.

There's an intangible characteristic you possess that allows you to give our students a feeling of normalcy in lives filled with deployments and uncertainty. This stability allows them to focus on learning and experience the joy of being young.

For all you do, thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Beraza".

Elaine Beraza

Director, DDESS/DoDDS-Cuba