

Beat: Local

Teachers

We owe the good ones.

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USPA NEWS - Teachers are the one of the few real *Unsung*. They don't get the credit they deserve. We should change that. They impact all our livess and their influence easily spans generations. Without a good base of eduators we are doomed as a society. We are all teachers and we are all students.

Leaving Houston I went to high school in the area. I Went to Parkway Delta. I recently got a phone call from my high school science teacher there. He told me that he was in the hospital and the fact that he called at all meant that it was serious - he is not a phone person, After years of medical problems he was awaiting a. desperately-needed kidney transplant. I went to the hospital to spend some time with hit and while we talked I was awash with Inemories of high school, Amazingly enough, perhaps, they were all good.

My high school was a creative and unconventional school with its focus on no boundaries to education. We did not have a conventional school building. We met in donated and rented space all over Germantown but our main meeting place was an old church on Wayne Avenue. We picked our classes based on credits needed for graduation just like in college. If we earned enough credits we could graduate earlier.

It's funny, but when I think back what I remember is how this one science teacher touched so many lives. No one ever told him that. So many of the people that he helped were from fatherless households.

At the time the lessons seemed important but fleeting. It wasn't until later that those he helped would realize the impact that he had had on their lives.

At the hospital as he lay there critically ill realized that when the end is rear there is little that should be left unsaid. I, as unofficial spokesperson for my classmates, told him what he had done for all of us. He made me promise not to tell anyone where he was or what was wrong. He was proud in a time when he did not have to be. Perhaps it was just force of habit at this point in his life, but he wa

After several emails and phone calls I found it remarkable that they simply did not seem to understand what I was asking about. They seemed to think the paycheck was the reward. They seemed to believe that a person decides to teach merely for the money. No other recognition is necessary in their minds.

They are wrong. Most teachers are educators who do it to help make better people. It is their way of trying to make the world a better place.

If you want to make schools safer, have parents teach children at home so teachers can teach at school, Child rearing, not metal detectors, will make Schools safer in the long run.

And thanks to all my teachers for a they've done. They did a thankless job for less than they were worth, in a career where it takes years before the people you try to educate appreciate the value of what you're doing. I appreciate it now - thanks.

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