



# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## City of San Diego Honors Westview High School Student with Proclamation of "Sophia M. Righthouse Day"

The City Council of the City of San Diego is issuing a proclamation to, and for, Sophia M. Righthouse, making Tuesday, January 23, 2018, "Sophia M. Righthouse Day".

Sophia is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Westview High School in the Poway Unified School District. The proclamation recognizes her heroic lifesaving efforts after noticing and reporting a structure fire, being the first on the scene, and conducting evacuations of all residents in a professional manner while putting her own life at risk.

"Sophia spotted the initial rising plume of black smoke," said San Diego Police Lieutenant Jason Weeden. "She notified her parents and immediately and without hesitation... volunteered to assist in the evacuation of the residents."

"I learned how to handle emergency situations like this," said Sophia, "when I attended a FEMA Cert Training this summer."

At one point during the fire an elderly woman reentered the burning building and Sophia's father told her he needed to go back in to get the woman out. Sophia calmly stayed outside the entrance and let firefighters know the two of them were inside.

Sophia's actions are not surprising to her high school principal, Tina Ziegler. "Sophia might be small in stature but her impact as a freshman on Westview's campus has been huge," said Ziegler. "She is a dedicated, hardworking student and cadet in the NJROTC program at Westview who wears her uniform proudly."

Sophia's many additional accomplishments are also being recognized, including:

- Outstanding achievements within the Young Marines program (3 time Honor Graduate - Recruit, JLS and SLS - YMOY at the unit, battalion and regimental levels, etc.)

- more -

- Service to her community (founding the Valuing our Veterans flagpole program in which she raises funds to purchase flagpoles that are then installed at the homes of veterans by Young Marines, presenting them with a Color Guard during the initial flag raising)
- Her many hours of community service within the Young Marines program
- Accomplishments in NJROTC at Westview High School (Honor Cadet from Basic Leadership Training and receiving a Certificate of Merit for excelling in all aspects of the NJROTC program coupled with her community service within the program)
- Accomplishments and community service as a member of the Girl Scouts of America.

The proclamation will be presented on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 10:00 am in the Council Chambers of the City of San Diego - 202 C Street, 12th Floor, San Diego, California, 92101.

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