



# PRESS RELEASE

## Delmar School District

### Delmar Teacher Nominated to Compete for the 2016 LifeChanger of the Year Award!

An anonymous Delmar community member recently nominated William (Bill) Mills to compete for the LifeChanger of the Year award from the National Life Group Foundation. On a yearly basis, this prestigious award recognizes and rewards K-12 education professionals from across the country. Each nominee has the potential of being recognized as one of their "Top 15 LifeChangers of the Year" and is eligible for the LifeChanger Spirit Award – which also means a chance for them and their school to receive cash prizes. Soon after the post went on the internet, Bill was extremely humbled by the numerous comments he received. Here are some of the comments:

Initial recommendation: "William Mills is not just a teacher, but a mentor to many of his students. He does everything he can to get his students excited about learning, and makes sure they walk out of his classroom with more knowledge than they had walking in. He always makes time to listen to his students whenever they come to him with problems. He is the definition of a life changing teacher!"

From MB: "As a student who was intimidated in the science classroom I can say it takes a lot to get past those inhibitions, but when I got to Mr. Mills' class they all melted away. He made the subject so fun and interesting and maintained that interest, so much so that when he decided to switch to 8th grade science with us after 7th grade it was a dream come true! Students don't normally get the same amazing teacher two years in a row, and I know that our entire class was ecstatic about it! Mr. Mills is a wonderful person and a great inspiration, even 14 years later. He completely deserves this, and I'm so proud to be able to say he was my teacher!"

From CS: "As a very hyper, talkative, and loud eighth grader, Mr. Mills was the one who noticed something went wrong from the moment I stopped saying a word. He would keep me after class to make sure I got the attention I needed. I'm glad to say that he has impacted my life and continues to push me to do everything I think I can't. I am thankful everyday for all he has done for me. He is a true LifeChanger."

From AP: "Mr. Mills is one of the reasons I became a teacher. He is truly the ideal teacher, it is not just a job to him. I was blessed to have Mr. Mills for 7th and 8th grade science. During my parent's divorce, Mr. Mills made sure I received the counseling that I needed. In the classroom, he made sure that all of his students had fun with learning and taught in various ways to ensure all learning styles were being met. He made sure that not only was he teaching and telling us information but that we understood what he was giving us. His job didn't end just because the last bell rang. He attended after-school events, sports, award ceremonies, and etc. Some of his students, myself included, were not fortunate enough to have family come out to all of these events. Mr. Mills came not just to mine but to a lot of his students' events because he wanted his students to know they had support and someone was cheering them on. Even after his students graduated to the 9th grade he did not stop showing his support. You could lean on Mr. Mills for educational or personal support. He made sure if it was personal he referred you if needed. Some of the students were not lucky enough to have Mr. Mills because he went off to serve our country during a time of war. Each day his students prayed for his safe return. Each day his students showed support and were so thankful the day he returned. It is truly hard to put into words all the good he has done. How can you sum up in words how important a teacher is to you or for that matter how one teacher made such an impact on your life. I don't think you can until you are fortunate enough to meet Mr. Mills or be a student in his class."

From SD: "I have known Mr. Bill for as long as I can remember. He and my mom served alongside each other defending our country. He showed me what it is to serve your country and how to be dedicated no matter the circumstances. He is an amazing person who does his best to make the world around him better. He is truly selfless."

From LB: "Bill Mills... Both of my children had him as a science teacher in middle school. They both had equally inspiring experiences. To me, it says something when a parent feels strongly about a teacher of their children. He doesn't just teach his subject... He leads, inspires, and helps the children to thrive. I trust him, not only to have the children in his care, but I know they will get the best being with him. He treats them like intelligent people who will make a difference. He is quick to answer questions and help in any way. My children's teachers have always been important to me. This one is remarkable. I am thankful for all he did for them, and for the friendship we have now, and for the service he generously gives to our country."

If you like to provide supportive comments for Mr. Mills, you can do so by visiting his LifeChanger profile page at <https://lifechangeroftheyearnominees.com?p=11791>.

The selection committee reads all the comments and takes them into consideration.

Bill has been teaching middle school science since 1996, all at Delmar Middle and Senior High school. He has held positions as lead science teacher and department chair for the Delmar School District and was selected as the 1999-2000 Delmar Teacher of the Year and the Maryland Veteran's of Foreign Wars, District 16, Teacher of the Year for 2009-2010. He has also served on the selection committee for the Delaware State Teacher of the Year. In 2004, Bill was a finalist in NASA's Teacher in Space Program which afforded him the opportunity to be a NASA spokesperson serving as a member of NASA's Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers. He was also accepted into Honeywell's Space Academy for Educators.

Bill also has an extensive military background. He enlisted in U.S. Army Intelligence in 1980, where he served over six years. In 1992, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve and since that time has served as an Intelligence and Operations Officer at Dover AFB, DE. He has deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and has been twice awarded the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, two Air Force Commendation medals and two Army Commendation medals, as well as several other awards and decorations.

Bill holds a Masters of Science Degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense University and a Bachelors of Science in Science Education from Delaware State University.

