

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 31, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are deeply grateful for your response to the atrocity that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 14, 2012. Your words have brought comfort to the families of the victims and survivors of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and your actions since have inspired countless Americans with hope that their elected officials in Washington will finally act to prevent similar tragedies from occurring again. We write today to ask that you recognize some of the heroes whose efforts saved lives on that dark day.

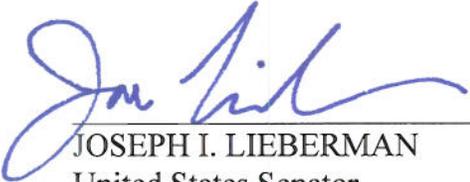
As you well know, six teachers and administrators at Sandy Hook Elementary School gave their own lives in order to save those of the children for whose care they were entrusted, and even more lives may have been lost if it were not for the vigilance of the first responders who arrived at the scene. We believe that these heroes should be recognized for their actions.

In the days since the attack, stories have emerged about exceptional heroism in the face of unbelievable danger. Stories like that of Principal Dawn Hochsprung, who ran toward the sound of gunfire, committed to protecting her students. Or Anne Marie Murphy, a teacher's aide who died attempting to shield 6-year-old Dylan Hockley, cradling him in her arms. Or teacher Victoria Soto, who hid several children in a closet and cupboards and then put herself between her students and the shooter. These are just a few of the many instances of heroism that occurred in the face of unfathomable horror.

We ask that you recognize these heroes from the Newtown tragedy in the appropriate and dignified manner that they deserve, to include consideration for such appropriate medals as the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Presidential Medal of Valor for Public Safety Officers, and the Young American Medal for Bravery.

We thank you again for your great efforts in the wake of the unspeakable horror that occurred in Newtown, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator

Rosa L. DeLauro

ROSA DeLAURO
Member of Congress

John B. Larson

JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

C. Murphy

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

Jim Himes

JIM HIMES
Member of Congress