



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
DR. MARK SCOTT

**BOARD MEMBERS**

HELEN HUGHES, VICE CHAIRMAN  
LORI JOHNSON  
DR. RICK UNRUH

MR. FRED WILSON, CHAIRMAN

DAVE CROCKETT  
HOKE MORROW  
BRYAN UPSHAW

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 26, 2018**

(Release #2017/18 – 132)

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390, ext. 0, [Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net](mailto:Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net)

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#).

## Veterans High Presented Patriotic Employer Award



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Veterans High School was presented the *Patriotic Employer* award for the school's support of the National Guard and Reserve. The certificate from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was presented by USAF Col. (Ret.) Robert Cruthirds and Tucker Haught.

Veterans teacher Jonathan Bates nominated his school for this recognition. In addition to teaching 9th grade English and Composition, he serves as a Squad Leader in the Georgia Army National Guard.

Pictured with the award are (from left): Col. Cruthirds, Haught, Veterans High Principal Chris Brown, Bates and Veterans High Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, USAF Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Atkins.

“Mr. Brown and the rest of the administration at Veterans High School, and those in higher positions of the Houston County Board of Education, all immensely support my service to the state and nation as a member of the Georgia Army National Guard,” wrote Bates in the nomination. “My employer and supervisors all facilitate a climate which is not only supportive of my military commitment, but also encourages me to enhance my leadership skills and abilities through the Army National Guard as it complements the same skills I need to excel inside the classroom as a high school English teacher.”

ESGR is the lead Defense Department program that promotes cooperation and understanding between civilian employers and their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR sponsors the awards program to recognize employers for policies and practices that support their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve.

MORE

**P.O. Box 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069**  
**(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259**  
**WWW.HCBE.NET**

## **Veterans High Presented Patriotic Employer Award / page 2 of 2**

ESGR was established in 1972 and has served our country for more than 45 years, fostering a culture in which employers support and value the employment and military service National Guard and Reserve members. These citizen warriors could not defend and protect us at home and abroad without the continued promise of meaningful civilian employment for themselves and their families.

Bates graduated from Northside High School in 2007. In 2011, he joined the staff at Veterans High after earning a Bachelor of Arts in English with Secondary Teaching Certification at Macon State College. He continued his post-secondary education by earning a Master of Education in Teaching and Learning from Liberty University in the Spring of 2013. Outside of the classroom and military service, Bates enjoys spending time with his wife and two children.

Veterans High School is located at 340 Piney Grove Road in Kathleen. Chris Brown serves as principal. For more information, please email Brown at [Christopher.I.Brown@hcbe.net](mailto:Christopher.I.Brown@hcbe.net) or call 478-218-7524.

# # #