



PRESS RELEASE, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Trapp Elementary School celebrates 50 Years of Public Education

Rialto, CA. – Rialto Unified School District is proud to invite you to the 50th Anniversary of W. J. C. Trapp Elementary School, located at 2750 North Riverside Avenue in Rialto. The celebration will begin on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., on the school's campus.

"We look forward to celebrating our 50 years of providing exemplary educational opportunities for all students," said **Roxanne Dominquez**, Principal of Trapp Elementary School. "Some of the guests at this event will include past and present administrators, teachers, staff and students, as well as Mr. Trapp's daughter and grandson. In fact, the response from our Trapp family has been truly overwhelming. We are very excited to commemorate this milestone with the community."

William Joseph Christian Trapp was known as a decorated school leader who cared about the youth. Mr. Trapp came to the City of Rialto in 1905 from Averill Park, New York. Mr. Trapp was an orange grower and a war hero who took part in World War I battles of Argonne Fores and Matz, Ly-Sheldt. Mr. Trapp received France's highest military honor, the *Medaille Militaire*, for acts of extreme bravery while a member of the Suicide Squad in Belgium. Mr. Trapp helped to organize the American Legion Post, Robert Allen Romo, and was its commander for years. "Bill" Trapp served on the Board of Trustees of the Rialto (*the RUSD was officially 'unified' in July 1964, one year after Trapp Elementary was named*) School Board for 29 years, from 1933 to 1962. He was the President of the Board of Trustees for 20 years, from 1942 to 1962. He missed only one school board meeting during all his years of service. According to his friends and family, Mr. Trapp was "very forthright in expressing his ideas, and fought passionately to make all Rialto schools the best that they could be." He played a large role in planning the growth of the Rialto School District, with the number of elementary school students increasing from a mere 300 at the time of his first election to the School Board in 1933. There were 4,800 elementary students at the time he vacated the school board in 1962. When W. J. C. Trapp Elementary School was named after him in 1964, it was the first time that a Rialto school had ever been named after a living person. Mr. Trapp was both proud and touched by the vote of confidence. He passed shortly after.

"This will be a wonderful milestone for not only the Trapp school family, but for all of us in the Rialto Unified School District," said Interim Superintendent, **Mohammad Z. Islam**. "I look forward to attending and celebrating the rich history with current and past Trapp Elementary students, parents, staff and the community."

For further information on the Trapp Elementary School 50th Anniversary, please contact either Trapp Elementary School at (909) 820-7912 or **Communications Services at 820-7700, ext. 2123.**

*** RUSD: Today's Scholars, Tomorrow's Leaders ***