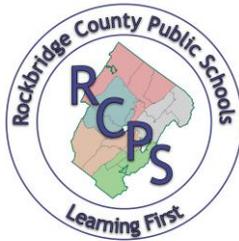


Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Haywood Hand, M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
March 13, 2020

Contact

Dr. Phillip Thompson, Division Superintendent, Rockbridge County Public Schools
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Rockbridge County School Board Approves Renaming the Athletic Stadium Complex at Rockbridge County High School to “Prasnicki-Ross Field at Veterans Stadium”

Lexington, VA – The Rockbridge County School Board voted unanimously at its regular monthly meeting on March 10, 2020 to at a ceremony in the future to rename the Rockbridge County High School Football Stadium to the **Prasnicki-Ross Field at Veterans Stadium**.

Rockbridge County Public Schools Division Superintendent, Phillip Thompson made a request for this action from the school board. Dr. Thompson stated, *“I grew up in Rockbridge County and am a proud product of our school division. I started my teaching career here and I have been fortunate to spend much of my career in my home of Rockbridge County. Unfortunately, in all my time I have spent here, I never had the opportunity to meet Stephen (Chase) Prasnicki, nor did I meet Andrew Ross.*

Both of these gentlemen grew up here in Rockbridge County, both attended Central Elementary School, Maury River Middle School, and Rockbridge County High School. While growing up here, people who knew them shared with me that they were model citizens, leaders, scholars, star athletes, and while a year separated them in school, they were close friends.

Upon graduation from RCHS, they both chose to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation from West Point, they both served in combat units of the US Army, and unfortunately, both paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

Phillip Thompson, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Haywood Hand, M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent

Since the passing of Lt. Prasnicki in 2012, I have heard from many in our community asking how we could honor him. With the more recent passing of CPT Ross in 2018, I have heard those calls even louder asking now how can we honor both of these young men for all they were as individuals and for what they meant to our community and our country.

In a world in which we are often found looking for exceptional role models and heroes for our children to look up to, I can think of no two individuals that better represent what I believe we all could aspire to be. As I mentioned previously, I did not have the pleasure of getting to meet either of these two individuals. In speaking with others that did know Chase and Andrew, there is no doubt that they were exceptional in every way. They were exceptional men that I would like to get to know better. I would like to honor them and have our students and our community to have the opportunity to get to know them better as well. I feel they should.

I bring to a request for your consideration that you take action at the next regularly scheduled school board meeting and vote to rename the athletic stadium complex at Rockbridge County High School. My recommendation would be that at a ceremony to be held in the near future, the stadium be renamed: "Prasnicki-Ross Field at Veteran Stadium".

Rockbridge County Public Schools

Rockbridge County Public Schools provides instruction to meet the needs of all students in schools that are fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education. We provide all elementary students with balanced instruction in the core subject areas of math, English, science, and social studies, enhanced by opportunities for enrichment and exploration through music, the arts, physical education, and a variety of other areas. We provide diverse educational opportunities for middle and high school students to prepare them for higher education or skilled workforce entry.

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