

Contact: Rebecca Kelley [RKelley@sandiego.gov](mailto:RKelley@sandiego.gov)

C: (619) 384-5269

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## **SAN DIEGO TO RECOGNIZE YOUNG HEROINE FROM RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS** *14 Year Old Saves Dozens of Lives at Condominium Fire; Attributes Young Marines Program*

San Diego, CA: On Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., Councilmember Chris Cate will declare the day as "Sophia M. Righthouse Day" in the City of San Diego. Two months ago, Sophia M. Righthouse, a Park Village resident, personally assisted with the evacuation of a condominium complex in Rancho Peñasquitos that was engulfed in flames. At only 14 years of age, Sophia conducted the evacuations in a calm professional manner, attributing her training with the Young Marines.

A 4.0 student at Westview High School, Sophia, a freshman, has a long-term goal of attending the Naval Academy or participating in College ROTC and embarking on a military career. Sophia is a Master Sergeant in the Young Marines serving with the Miramar Unit based out of MCAS Miramar. Sophia founded the Young Marines "Valuing our Veterans" flagpole program, where she gathers funding to purchase and install flagpoles for local military veterans in recognition of their service.

In addition to the Young Marines, Sophia M. Righthouse has volunteered more than 600 hours serving her community as a Cadet Seaman in the Naval JROTC unit at Westview High School and is a Senior Girl Scout with Troop 8716. Sophia has earned the prestigious Girl Scouts USA Bronze and Silver Awards.

"Sophia Righthouse is an outstanding example of a youth that embodies patriotism, volunteerism, civic responsibility, leadership, and a passion to help others. Individuals like Sophia, make our community better," stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

"The Young Marines have impacted how I think and how I act. They have allowed me to believe in myself and learn about the core values of honor, courage, and commitment," said Sophia M. Righthouse.

**WHAT:** Sophia M. Righthouse Day

**WHERE:** City Hall, 202 C Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor (Council Chambers), San Diego, CA 92101

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

**WHO:** Sergeant Bret Righthouse, San Diego Police Department (Sophia's father)  
Detective Susan Righthouse, San Diego Police Department (Sophia's mother)  
Righthouse family members  
San Diego Police Department officers

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Phone: (619) 236-6616 | Email: [ChrisCate@SanDiego.gov](mailto:ChrisCate@SanDiego.gov)