Dear Editor:

Teacher Appreciation Week is a week-long celebration in the United States observed the first full week in May. Teacher Appreciation Day is the Tuesday that falls during Teacher Appreciation Week. Teaching is one of those rare professions that keep your brain young, allowing you to continue your own journey as a student and a lifelong learner. Being a teacher means that you care more for other people than you do about money. It means challenges unforeseen every day. It means what is going on in your students' lives becomes part of your life. Teaching is a job that encourages your own growth because to do it well requires your own continuous education. Some might say that's a bad thing, but growth is about facing your demons or just your imps and dueling yourself for greater knowledge. I believe true growth as a person can happen only by challenging yourself with situations that are not familiar to you. Throwing yourself into a job in which you can encounter people of different ethnicities and religions and with different philosophies, learning styles and backgrounds can only cause you to grow as a person, and public education provides that environment. Teachers should make every attempt to encourage all students to make the most of their education by becoming life-long learners. Teachers should emphasize critical thinking and problem solving skills by challenging students to question, reason, investigate, and conjecture. Students should relish in the thrill of learning and discovery. As we begin another school year, it is imperative that all teachers rise to the challenge of educating the youngsters in our school system. It is their job to do everything possible to ensure that all students receive a safe and secure learning experience.

Sincerely,

Ke’Shun Stewart