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## Polk Street School Keeps "Sophie's Dream" Big, Franklin Square Students Send Holiday Cards to Troops Overseas

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BY LONG ISLAND NEWS & PR (/PROFILE/NEWS) PUBLISHED: DECEMBER 12 2016

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Assemblywoman Solages, Polk Street School students and teachers, Principal Gil Torossian and Assistant Principal John Trotta hold cards that will be sent out to veterans overseas this holiday season.

Photo by: Office of Assemblywoman Michaele C. Solages.

**Franklin Square, NY - December 9, 2016** - Polk Street Elementary School's fifth grade class recently created about 100 holiday cards in an effort to show their appreciation to American troops for serving our nation. The cards were collected by Assemblywoman Michaele Solages. They were then mailed overseas by the partnership between the "Dream Big Sophie" movement and the American Red Cross and its annual Holiday Mail for Heroes program.

The "Dream Big Sophie" movement, is an annual greeting card drive created by Horseheads Intermediate School sixth-grader Sophie Kartzman. Sophie's mission is to send holiday cards to military men and women serving overseas. Over the years, Sophie's movement has grown and flourished throughout New York State as she continues to challenge herself and others to devote their time to selfless acts of kindness.

"I appreciate Sophie reaching out to New York State Legislators and engaging our local students in card making," stated Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages. "These holiday cards were a simple way to thank our service members as well as remind them that they are not forgotten, that they are appreciated and supported for all that they do."

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages encouraged the fifth grade students at Polk Street Elementary School (<http://longisland.com/schools>) to follow Sophie's lead and do something considerate for others this holiday season. "We sincerely appreciate Assemblywoman Solages visiting Polk Street School to spend time talking with our wonderful students," said Principal Gil Torossian. "Collecting the holiday cards and banners and delivering them to our veterans means a lot to our school community."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to show our appreciation in writing to the diligent veterans who protect us," said Assistant Principal John Trotta. "The sacrifice that members of our military make is incredible. Our young students need positive role models to look up to, and the members of the armed forces are great examples of leaders who serve others and are a part of something bigger than themselves."

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