

It has been impossible to ignore the smiles, laughter, high-fives, hugs, yells, and tears that the Mountain Heritage football team has brought to Yancey County this fall. Wherever I went— whether to the gas station or the grocery store, everyone was commenting on the Cougars! On Friday, December 11th, I had the privilege of following the team buses through town. To see the sheriff's department, town police, highway patrol, and fire department block traffic and lead the procession was heart warming. To see all the people throughout the town who came out to wave and encourage the team brought tears to my eyes!

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you, the citizens of Yancey County, for embracing our students during this wonderful and exciting ride to the state 2-A Championship. History was made this fall and we were all part of it. To think that Mountain Heritage High School would appear on the giant Jumbotron at Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill was an experience! To see our team work so hard and play so well was a joy to warm the heart on a frosty night.

Thank you to the Board of Education, the County Commissioners, individual contributors, and the Touchdown Club for making the trip to Chapel Hill an easy endeavor. Thanks to you, the stands were full of mountain fans and mountain pride. Despite the loss, we are still western regional champs, state runner-up, and have the knowledge that no MHHS football team has ever done this before!

Lastly, a special thank you to a great group of students that are the Mountain Heritage football team. They have worked hard, supported each other, and followed their dream. To a special group of coaches who believed in the students, supported them, and often served as their parents as well as their friends. To a group of parents and extended family that provided food, love, and support to this team. These students gave us all something to be proud of.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students at Mountain Heritage High School, I would like to thank the community for their support. This event can only strengthen the knowledge that our great faculty and students deserve encouragement and support. Mountain Heritage is about much more than sports. Academically, our students rank above the state average and higher than many others in our region. Our arts programs are outstanding and our instructors are top-notch. We invite you to attend other events and get to know our school in different areas. MHHS is proud to be the only high school in Yancey County and strives to help our students be our community's future leaders.

“Pride gives us the inner strength to persevere”. Go Cougars!

Patricia R. Bennett, Principal
Mountain Heritage High School