



QuEd up for Education

People and programs impacting our QCSD community

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West Point: Senior achieves her dream

Since the third grade, Lizzie Maceri's goal was to attend the U.S. Military Academy.

Gary Weckselblatt

As a third-grader at Richland Elementary School, Lizzie Maceri recalled an assignment in Mrs. Fell's class that asked students to write "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

Nine years later and now a high school senior, Lizzie's response remains true to her words that day. "I'm going to attend the United States Military Academy, and become an Army officer."

One of Quakertown Community High School's outstanding students, Lizzie recently received confirmation that she's achieved the first part of her dream, with her "Certificate of Appointment" to West Point.

"I'm humbled and honored and so thankful for this," she said.

Attaining an appointment to West Point is a difficult challenge for anyone. The U.S. Military Academy accepts approximately 10 percent of its applicants, about 1,100-1,150 students each year. The process for applicants is extensive as candidates are evaluated based on their academic, physical, and leadership potential. Upon graduation, Lizzie will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army and serve for five years on active duty.

Craig Maceri, Lizzie's dad, is an Army Colonel and a 1996 West Point graduate. He is Brigade Commander of the Rhode Island National Guard.

When Lizzie was a first grader at Richland, her dad was deployed in Iraq. It was a difficult time for the family, which includes mom Mary and younger sisters Emily and Grace. As her dad served in combat areas, "We couldn't call him, he could only call us," Lizzie said. "Days would go by and we wouldn't hear from him."

One day, as she sat in her first-grade classroom, her dad surprised her. It was one of those heart-tugging stories seen nowadays on social media. Craig Maceri's return home made the news. "Everyone in the community was so supportive," Lizzie said. "My dad is a great leader. I want to be that type of leader, have people view me the same way they view my dad. I want to serve my country and I want to lead people. Being an officer in the Army is the best way to do that, especially through West Point."

Superintendent Dr. Bill Harner, who graduated from West Point and enjoyed a 20-year career in the Army, recommended Lizzie for her appointment. "She has an incredible intellect, charisma and is involved in many activities that illustrate her care for other people," Dr. Harner said. "In the



Lizzie Maceri proudly displays her "Certificate of Appointment" to the United States Military Academy.

future, I have no doubt that we'll be hearing more about her on the national level."

Mrs. Roth, her high school counselor, recalls the first time she met Lizzie. It was the first month of Lizzie's freshman year. "She initiated an appointment with me to lay out her plans for high school," Mrs. Roth recalled. "She said 'I am going to attend West Point, so let's work together to make sure I am fulfilling all of the steps to get there.'"

"She had a plan from day one, and she worked very hard to accomplish that plan" Mrs. Roth said. "She is the cream of the crop, and I am so thrilled for her. She's awesome."

Lizzie said she's hoping to "live up to my father's legacy. He's an amazing officer. I'm certain he's excited that there will be another Maceri added to 'The Long Gray Line.' We'll be more connected now through me, and my West Point stories."

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