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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Megan Taylor |
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**Heller Congratulates Three Nevada Schools on Recognition as National Blue Ribbon Schools**

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today congratulated Shirley and Bill Wallin Elementary School in Henderson, NV, Thompson Elementary School in Las Vegas, NV, and Pinon Hills Elementary School in Minden, NV, for being recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2017. Only 342 total schools around the country were designated as National Blue Ribbon Schools this year, a recognition that celebrates high-performing schools and student success.

According to the Department of Education, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program “honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap.”

“I congratulate Shirley and Bill Wallin Elementary in Henderson, Thompson Elementary in Las Vegas, and Pinon Hill Elementary in Minden on their recognition as National Blue Ribbon Schools. Earning this recognition requires tremendous effort from all who work hard to ensure student achievement – the educators, the parents, and the students themselves,” **said Heller.** “A good education helps pave the way to good-paying jobs, and that’s why it’s critical that our kids have access to the tools they need to succeed so that they will be prepared for a bright future. I’m proud of our Nevada schools for serving as examples of academic excellence and commend the teachers, faculty, and staff for their progress toward making sure that every student has a chance to excel.”

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