

THE BRAZIL TIMES

Northview senior speaks at the JAG National Board meeting in Indianapolis, meets governor

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

By CAREY FOX Times Sports Editor

Northview's Parker Timberman has long been making strides as a member of Northview High School's Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program. Recently, Timberman earned the opportunity to speak at the JAG National Board Meeting and the chance to meet Governor Eric J. Holcomb.

Governor Holcomb is the President of the JAG National Board of Directors and the board met April 10 in Indianapolis at the Heritage Center. Several governors, state representatives and Chief Executive Officers of major corporations sit on the board. Timberman, who was the JAG State Honorable Mention Outstanding Senior and Pendleton Heights' Sidney Shoaf (JAG State Outstanding Senior) were invited to speak at the meeting.

The JAG program at Northview, as explained by its teacher Dana Bottomley, is one that prepares its students for the next level after high school.

"Typically students (in JAG) have barriers in front of them graduating or maybe being successful once they have graduated. The program offers us staying on top of their grades, a resume, cover letters, interview skills, public speaking, how to find a career that matches their personality so they can be happy with the job," Bottomley said. "We help them determine what college might fit them, help them with job applications and scholarship applications."

Timberman, who has been a talented member of the Northview musicals and community theater during his four years, has cerebral palsy, which impairs muscle control. "When Parker was enrolled in school he was identified as someone that could benefit from the program," Northview High School Principal Chris Mauk said. "We spoke to him to see if it was something that he wanted to pursue and that was how he got signed up for (JAG). Just like kids in any class, once they get in there it is what they put into it. Parker took the opportunity to take

the bull by the horns and really become a leader in there. Parker Timberman has come along and has gotten a tremendous amount out of the program. He is someone that takes advantage of every opportunity he is given."

This year was Timberman's second in JAG and he, along with approximately 150 JAG students from nine participating schools, competed on the campus of Ivy Tech for the 2018 Career Development Conference. As a junior he competed in the career presentation category. This year he joined competition for Outstanding Senior and won at the regional level and advanced to the state level. He finished as honorable mention at state and did so with the accustomed smile that brightens each room he enters according to Mauk.

"Not only does Parker represent himself and his family very well, but he is very much a big part of Northview High School," Mauk said. "He is involved with the JAG program obviously, but he is in the musicals, in the plays and

he always has a smile on his face. The values of Northview High School just come through in him. He is a student leader and he gets the most out of every opportunity that he is given. I don't think that I could have picked a better representative of Northview High School as far as someone that loves Northview High School, Clay Community Schools. Just a fantastic role model for other students."

Not surprisingly, Timberman admitted there were a few jitters as he spoke to a large contingent of people that included the President of JAG along with Indiana's Governor Holcomb.

"It was very rewarding and I was very nervous," Timberman said with a laugh. "The people there are doing such a great thing and for them to ask me to come speak to them, I felt very honored. They know a lot more about the program than I do, but I guess they are impressed by what the program has done for me and other high school students. It was very humbling."

Timberman is also quickly realizing the opportunity to meet some very important people has its benefits when it comes to his own future.

"It was very rewarding. I think a lot of people when they think of Jobs for America's Graduates, first of all not many people know about it and they don't

realize the networking you get to do when you are involved. What is funny is that the people I am meeting, my JAG Specialist, Dana Bottomley, does not even get to meet," Timberman said. "It is actually giving me people that I can use for references and letters of recommendation. Personally, as much as I like school, I am learning things that in the 12 years or so that I have been in school, that I haven't learned in the classroom. So that was what was cool."

The senior's academic career took a bit of a different turn over the last year as he has decided to forgo life on stage and keep his focus in the classroom, which he had a chance to convey to Governor Holcomb.

"When I started high school I wanted to be a theater major, but I got to be a student helper in the special education classroom here at Northview and got to work closely with their teacher, Broc Miller. It has been very rewarding," Timberman admitted. "I have gotten to talk to (Miller) about the things that have made him a successful teacher. Once I got in there I realized that the classroom with these kids is where I wanted to be. Having a disability and dealing with things everyday, I can then help these young children get through tough times because it is not always easy and I am very excited for the challenge.

"It was very eye opening to meet someone in his position and it was very awesome," Timberman said of meeting the governor. "Not only did I get to talk about the JAG program, but I also got to talk to him about things I feel are issues with the way education is going. It was great to talk to someone that might be able to make a difference."

Much like Timberman has in the JAG program and at Northview High School.

"He had the opportunity to become a student helper with a special needs class and he just exploded with confidence," Bottomley said. "Now, he wants to become a special needs mild interventions teacher, which is fantastic. He loves working with those kids and it is very fulfilling for him. He has been a great ambassador for us overall. He is such a positive light in class."