



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Hannah Walker recognized with peer leadership award

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Franklin High School senior Hannah Walker was honored the first recipient of the "Haley Cremer – Do Unto Others Award for Peer Leadership" at a county-wide meeting of high school leaders held at Gillette Stadium recently.

The award, presented by Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey at his annual "Peer Leader Conference," is named for a young woman who distinguished herself as a kind, positive, inspiring leader at Sharon High School, then at Simmons College in Boston, before her life was cut short by a reckless driver when she was 20.

"We invited every high school in Norfolk County to nominate their best – those who lead by their example, give of themselves to others and make their school communities stronger and healthier," District Attorney Morrissey said. "We received very impressive packages from the different schools. None was more impressive than Hannah Walker."

Three generations of the Cremer family joined three generations of the Walker family for the Nov. 6 presentation in front of more than 200 high school peer leaders from schools across Norfolk County.



The conference, which DA Morrissey holds every fall, brings together hundreds of exceptional high school students nominated by their schools for the positive impact they have on their communities – and their position as leaders in smart, healthy behavior.

"We know that by high school, kids look more and more to their peers in shaping their own behavior," DA Morrissey said after the event. "Every school tries to foster and support a core of students who are choosing not to use substances, engage in risky behavior behind the wheel or elsewhere. The Peer Leadership conference is our attempt to give those students information supporting responsible decisions, to recognize them for the leadership they already show, and to help channel and focus some of their work through the set of positive events and challenges that constitute our Team Rival program."

Hannah Walker was nominated by staff members at Franklin High at the end of her junior year, calling her "the first person to step up and volunteer whenever something needs to be done." Those experiences have included being a Peer Mentor, Peer Leader, Community Service Club Member and a student leader at the High School Experience, the transition program for incoming freshmen who benefit from older student mentors. She also volunteers at the Making Strides Walk for Breast Cancer, volunteers at St. Mary's Church and has played an important role in the Light Up a Life Fundraiser.