

TRIBUTE TO THE SALEM HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING TEAM

Ms. HASSAN. M. President, I am proud to recognize Salem High School's cheerleading team as April's Granite Staters of the Month for coming together, even while social distancing, to help raise the spirits of residents at a local nursing home.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Salem's cheerleading team was unable to compete at their New England conference meet, a moment that athletes had worked hard for all season. In an effort to cheer up her teammates, as well as bring joy to residents at their local nursing home, Gabrielle Driggers, a sophomore on the team, suggested throwing a parade for the residents, which included Gabrielle's grandmother.

Gabrielle, who has led previous efforts to support her local community by organizing donation drives and fundraisers with the help of her teammates, texted the team's group chat to see if anyone would be willing to participate in a parade for residents at Salemhaven Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. A few days later, between 25 to 30 members of the cheerleading team gathered in the Salem High School parking lot, pom-poms in hand, to greet their fellow teammates from the safety of their cars and prepare for the procession to the nursing home.

The parade, which was carefully planned to ensure that all of the athletes were at least six feet away from one another and the residents, consisted of a line of cars where cheerleaders, one to a car, waved their pom-poms and blasted music to the delight of the residents.

I commend the members of the Salem High School cheerleading team for recognizing the importance of ensuring that those who are the most vulnerable to the virus feel supported and seen during this public health emergency. This is a difficult time for all Americans, which is why this straightforward act of kindness and recognition of community resonates with Granite Staters and all Americans and reflects the very best of our state.