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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UCHS Cadet Gillispie Among 20 Missourians Selected for U.S. Air Force Academy

St. Louis, MO. (March 26, 2018) --Marco Gillispie (17), University City High School (UCHS) is one of a select group of Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) cadets to receive an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

According to Colonel Thomas Henson, typically, the Academy selects 15 – 17 percent of student applicants and Marco as he is one of only 20 Missouri cadets selected and one of 1,200 nationally. “Marco is a true leader who demonstrates a high degree of integrity and character,” said Henson. “He leads by example, is highly involved with many extracurricular and community activities and his academic record of performance is unmatched. Marco has the ability, confidence, and drive to succeed and to achieve the high goals he sets for himself.”



Col. Henson said the Academy’s application process is tough and that students must be in the top of their school’s ranking with a 3.5 GPA or higher and pass the physical ability tests. “It is very competitive and must be the student’s initiative with a vision for a career in the Air Force.”

Marco, who is soon to turn 18, carries a weighted GPA of 4.3/unweighted 3.9 and has been entertaining offers from prestigious colleges including Washington University. However, he says he has always wanted to follow in the footsteps of his dad, Mark Gillispie, a retired USAF Major. The Academy became a goal his junior year. “I was very excited when I woke up and saw the email and I immediately went online to confirm. The first thing I did was call my dad at work.”

Marco recognizes the importance of the opportunity he has been offered and credits UCHS with getting him to his goal. He says, “UCHS provided me with a lot of great resources including Colonel Henson, computer classes for systems engineering and (preparatory) resources for ACT testing and college admissions.”

Getting that acceptance Marco says, “...it was awesome news and it took a lot of weight off because I now, I know where I am going and that I will be attending a great institution.”

Presently, there are two UCHS juniors hoping to progress to the Academy next school year.

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