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**News Release**

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**George B. Carpenter Elementary School Teacher Honored as  
'Symetra Hero in the Classroom'**

CHICAGO — (Dec. 3, 2014) — Symetra, Gallagher Benefit Services and the Chicago Bears honored George B. Carpenter Elementary School teacher Sue Douglass as a "Symetra Hero in the Classroom" on Dec. 3, 2014 during a surprise assembly. Douglass teaches third grade at the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 elementary school located in Park Ridge, Illinois.

"Sue Douglass has been teaching nearly 20 years. Positive and upbeat, she cares deeply about our children, our families and our school," said Brett Balduf, principal of Carpenter Elementary School. "Sue is an excellent educator, who connects individually with each of her students and leads by example. She organizes a weekly flag songs activity with all of our third graders, teaching them the importance of patriotism — and then coordinates an activity where the children visit a local senior citizens' center so the students can perform there and connect with the residents." Balduf nominated Douglass for the Symetra Heroes in the Classroom® award.

"Sue loves to apply education to real life. She always finds unique ways to help students understand the importance of what they are learning," adds Balduf. "One engaging strategy Sue often uses is 'Douglass Stories,' where she will find an interesting way to link something her students are learning to an interesting story that she or a family member experienced. Whenever Sue says, 'That reminds me of a Douglass story,' the students sit up attentively, ready for a humorous and engaging lesson disguised as a story."

Douglass is one of 16 K–12 teachers in the Chicago area who will be honored for educational excellence in the Symetra Heroes in the Classroom program during the 2014 NFL season. Teachers are recognized in front of their students and peers at surprise in-school presentations, and they receive a \$1,000 donation for classroom books and supplies. In addition, they receive tickets to a Bears home game and are acknowledged during an on-field presentation at Soldier Field. Douglass will be recognized at the Dec. 4 game when the Bears take on the Dallas Cowboys.

Teachers may be nominated by their principal, district staff, student or student's parent. The winners are selected based on their ability to make a real difference in students' lives; to go above and beyond in their day-to-day responsibilities; and to help students build life skills.

More information about Symetra Heroes in the Classroom is available at [www.SymetraHeroes.com/Bears](http://www.SymetraHeroes.com/Bears).

**About Symetra**

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