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The National Teachers Hall of Fame
1 Kellogg Circle, Campus Box 4017
Emporia, KS 66801

RE: Letter in support of NTHF nomination - Diana Hanbury King

Dear National Teacher Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

In 1952, I was six years old, in the second grade in public school in Washington, D.C. I was completely illiterate and unable to read, write, spell or do arithmetic. The school staff told my parents I was uneducable.

My parents obtained educational, neurological and psychological evaluations of me from experts in the private sector. The evaluators reported that I was bright but that I had an acute hyperkinetic disorder¹ and "word blindness," also known as strephosymbolia,² I was illiterate. These experts told my parents that I could be taught how to read, write, spell and do arithmetic by someone who was trained in the Orton-Gillingham Approach that was created in 1935 by neurologist Samuel T. Orton and Anna Gillingham, an educator.

My parents located Diana Hanbury King who, using Orton-Gillingham, tutored me for an hour a day, five days a week, over a two-year period. She taught me reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling skills. Her goal was not to get me to age and grade level in those domains, but two years above in all.³ When I was re-evaluated in the sixth grade, I was functioning at the eighth-grade level. I never received or required accommodations or modifications for my "disability."

During these years, Diana worked closely with my parents to ensure that they did not lower expectations. She showed them how to help me acquire writing skills by hanging large sheets of paper on a wall so I could write (draw) letters. Two years ago, after evaluating my grandson who is struggling with dysgraphia, she taught me the same strategy to use when I tutored him during his summer vacation with my wife and I.

Diana also worked closely with my second and third grade teachers and provided them with specific techniques. She ensured that they knew I was bright and should be expected to work hard. She knew that my "disability" could be remediated.

But for her, I would never have acquired the skills to become an attorney, obtain a landmark decision in a special education case before the U. S. Supreme Court^{4,5} and, via our books, website,⁶ and training,⁷ become a leader in the field of special education law and advocacy.

Sincerely,
PWD Wright
Peter W. D. Wright

¹ Now known as ADHD

² Now known as dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia

³ <https://youtu.be/1QpXjH1C4Bs>

⁴ *Florence County Sch. Dist. IV v. Carter*, 510 US 7 (1993)

⁵ <http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/articles/orton.html>

⁶ <http://www.wrightslaw.com>

⁷ <http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/schedule.htm>