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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Because I said I would: Col. Parker Schenecker Speaks to Students about Turning Personal Tragedy into a Positive

(San Antonio, Texas) – On February 9, Saint Mary's Hall Upper School students welcomed Col. Parker Schenecker for a special presentation. Col. Schenecker, a respected Army service veteran spoke to students about how his personal tragedy inspired him to make the world a better place. In 2011, while deployed in Afghanistan, Col. Schenecker's children were murdered by their mother.

From this tragedy, Col. Schenecker made a promise to remember how his children lived, and also established the Calyx & Beau Schenecker Memorial Fund to promote athletics, arts, and altruism in today's youth. He has partnered with the non-profit organization because I said I would to empower students to be people of honor by following through on promises. Col. Schenecker challenged students to think about the importance of promises and how they are a reflection of their character. He also spoke about how promises can be small or big (and they can be made to yourself or to others) whether you are promising to reach out to new students, exercise more, or accept others.

Towards the end of the presentation, packets of promise cards were given to students so that they could make their own promises. One student remarked, "I never thought about promises the way Col. Schenecker explained them. Hearing how he turned his tragedy into a life-long promise to his children really touched me, and made me really think about how I can be a man of my word and keep my promises." A banner (displayed in the Upper School) proudly displays students' signed promises, and serves as a reminder to students of the promises they have made. At Saint Mary's Hall, character education is an important part of our students' lives. The school looks for interesting and unique opportunities such as this one to help foster a culture of trust based on mutual respect, honesty, and integrity that will help our students develop their identities as independent thinkers and learners.

Since 1879, Saint Mary's Hall has set the standard for college preparatory education in San Antonio by providing a wide-range of exceptional opportunities in academics, athletics, fine arts, and character education to create well-rounded students that are successful in college and life. Saint Mary's Hall offers exceptional opportunities for children ages 3 through grade 12.