



Mr. Joe
By: Ren Bailey and Teresa Crawford

My grandson Ren Bailey rides bus # 17. His bus drivers name is Joe. As common as that may sound, I want you to know that Joe is not a common bus driver at all.

Joe is more than liked by my grandson, he is very much loved. He is loved because he's a friend, a real friend. So much a friend that one day the two little girls that live next door were getting a puppy after school. So all the way home they were talking about their new puppy that they were so happy about getting. My grandson Ren was happy for the girls but sad for himself, because he wouldn't be able to be there and share in the fun of bringing a new puppy home. Hearing all of this Joe dropped off all his riders except the 2 girls and Ren. He then turned the bus around, took the girls to pick up their puppy and Ren got to be there for the whole thing and shared in the fun.

How thoughtful is he to do that? How sweet! That may have been the day Ren found love in his heart for Joe. Or maybe love came the day Joe stopped in front of the house with his blinkers on and waited for Ren to come in and get his new train whistle to show to Joe. Only a friend would do something like that.

That's why Ren won't leave the road until Joe has turned around and Ren can give Joe his second wave good-bye. These are just a couple of times Joe has gone beyond the call of bus driver. There are many more, but the most meaningful thing to me is how safe Ren feels because Joe is there. And the most touching is the fact that my grandson feels

that it's important to ride Joe's bus because he says "If I'm not there, Joe won't be happy. He'll be missing me all the way home".

In this crazy world of rush and worry it's so comforting to me that Ren has Joe in his life as a bus driver, his friend, and his safety.

We ask ourselves, "Where have all the good guys gone?" I can tell you. One of the very best drives bus #17, his name is Joe.

With Much Love,

Ren and family



Director Charlotte Britton, Dan Tollett, Ren Bailey, Joe Melendez, Principal Susan Trent