

On Thursday evening, Oct 24th 2013, the Floral Park Memorial High School library was jammed pack with students and their parents who came to meet author Luis Carlos Montalvan and his service dog Tuesday. Luis & Tuesday visited Floral Park to discuss the book *Until Tuesday: a Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him*. Montalvan is a 17 year veteran of the U.S. Army including multiple combat tours in Iraq and was decorated with numerous awards and metals. Honorably discharged in 2007, Luis returned to the United States but was experiencing serious physical and psychological effects of the war. Fortunately he was given the opportunity to receive a service dog and was matched with Tuesday. Montalvan openly shared his experiences during the war and after. It is important for people to understand that being disabled does not mean that the person is a disability. As a vocal public advocate for veterans and Americans with disabilities, Luis and Tuesday travel the country speaking to community groups, non-profits, and schools. Their powerful message of healing, loyalty, friendship and redemption clearly convey the strong and unwavering bond between man and dog. The event was extremely inspiring and touched all who attended. After his presentation Montalvan answered questions, signed books and demonstrated Tuesday's ability to assist him by following certain commands. There was even time set aside for photos with Luis and Tuesday. A special thank you to the PTSA for providing copies of *Until Tuesday* that were raffled off to FPM students. Another special and successful FPM READS program. Be sure to visit the website www.until-tuesday.com for more information about Luis and Tuesday as well as an upcoming picture book being released May 2014, a documentary film coming this summer and a major motion picture in the works.