

Superintendent's Report 10.09.12

Tonight the Board members and I would like to honor **Mrs. Patricia Lapan**. Mrs. Lapan founded the **Lapan College Club**. She began by rewarding **Wakefield Middle School students** with \$50 for every A earned in core classes. When the students entered high school they were given the opportunity to earn up to \$500 a year based on a GPA of 2.8 or higher. The money earned goes into a fund that can only be accessed for college expenses: tuition, books, dorms, meals, transportation and so on.

Wakefield serves over 400 students and, as of last year, 97.4 percent qualified for free or reduced lunch. Since 2004, about 1900 Wakefield students have enrolled in the College Club, earning about \$1.2 million dollars, though not all have enrolled in college and collected their portion of the funds.

Joining us tonight is her son, **Dr. David Lapan**, a local cardiologist, and her grandson, **Kasey Lapan**, along with **Lucy Kin, Executive Director of the Lapan Memorial Sunshine Foundation** and **several others from Wakefield and Pueblo**.

Because Mrs. Lapan felt it wasn't enough to just throw money at the problem, she made sure students received mentoring services and that their parents were involved.

The College Club is funded through the Lapan Sunshine Foundation, which was first launched in 1989 in California. When she relocated to Tucson about a decade ago, Mrs. Lapan brought the foundation with her and adopted Wakefield in 2004.

Her son is quoted as saying she led a "very storied life" and did things well before other women did. According to Dr. Lapan, throughout her life she became a registered nurse, a pilot, a real estate developer and was licensed in construction and accounting. He went on to say, "She turned nothing into an empire by becoming a financial genius in the stock market and real estate. She made millions and all she wanted to do was give it away. She was one of those people who quietly did good things in the world."

Her philanthropic efforts will continue, as the bulk of her estate has been designated to charities, including the College Club.

A memorial service is being planned for November.

I would like to ask her son and grandson to accept this token of appreciation from us in remembrance of Mrs. Lapan and all that she has given to our students for the past eight years. Her monetary contributions to the students was great but so much more important was the investment of her time and personal interest in order to prepare them for college and future professional success.

Thank you for sharing her with us.