

Skagway School Board
Super-Principal Josh Coughran
Box 497 Skagway, Ak. 99840
Re: Nomination for Don Hather Wall of Fame

3/01/15

Please accept this nomination of Dr. Michael Dickens, deceased, as the recipient of this year's Don Hather Wall of Fame honor.

Dr. Dickens' family can be contacted at: Monica Jones-Dickens
9357 E. Fairway Blvd.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248-6515

One aspect of Dr. Dickens' contribution to Skagway School District is easily quantifiable. Well connected and versed in the world of academia, his prowess landed significant grants for Skagway School such as the FLAP (Foreign Language Assistance Program) grant in 2007 which funded June Harper's position as a Spanish Teacher and brought \$154,000 to our district, or the PEP grant for a physical fitness instructor plus equipment such as heart rate monitors, kayaks, bicycles, etc... to the tune of \$128,000 in revenue. His efforts to network on Skagway's behalf also ensured annual placement for Skagway students in life-changing leadership programs such as HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership).

While the feats listed above are enough alone, to warrant this honor, it is my opinion that those accomplishments were overshadowed by something far more significant: the enormous heart with which he led the district. Throughout his day, every person with whom Dr. Dickens came into contact, was met with sincerity and genuine caring. He relished your individual life experience, whether you were a new acquaintance, or a close friend of many years and he made it his mission to better that life experience whenever it was within his ability. His work load was huge, but Dr. Dickens was never without time to give.

Dr. Dickens' daily manner set an example for all of us about the power of positivity; he was an impactful role model for our students in this regard. His version of the Happy Birthday song during lunch was performed with joyous intensity. We looked forward to his daily Spanish greeting heard throughout the neighborhood, "Buenas dias estudiantes y professoras!" He wore an extensive collection of what I referred to as his "happy ties", and then there was the simple greeting, "Happy Tuesday" delivered with a grin from ear to ear. These encounters placed a bit of joy in our hearts which we could bring home to share with our own families and friends.

Thank you for your consideration,



Cara Cosgrove