





LINDA EHRICH
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Happy New Year!

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Marechal Duncan

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Grodin says he was always helping others and had the vision to see what was needed in his hometown. "More importantly he had the ability to make things happen – always with hard work and humor," says Grodin, noting that his years of service to so many different organizations are hard to fathom.

He was passionate about helping seniors age in place and, as a member of the Lafayette Community Foundation's Liaison Committee for Seniors, he played a large part in establishing the annual Senior Symposium – a resource fair for seniors – co-chairing the first event over 12 years ago.

Lamorinda Village Board Member Don Jenkins, who also devotes his time to helping seniors age in place

says that Duncan was his role model. "The way that he cared for his wife was an inspiration to all of us as we try to care for one another as we age in our wonderful community," says Jenkins.

Jenkins recalls first meeting Duncan in 1999 during the creation of the Lafayette Community Foundation, serving with him on the board of directors. He says that in the monthly board meetings, as they all worked to get the Lafayette Library created, built and funded, "Marechal was usually the last to speak on an issue if he chose to speak. When he did speak he used humor, wisdom and conciseness to make his point."

For over 10 years until recently Duncan never missed a Community Liaison Meeting. Judy Carney, the meeting organizer, remembers how he loved hearing about

everything going on around the city.

Carney remembers that Duncan never missed a Pearl Harbor Commemoration Day. "He always reminded us about it. And every year he would tell us, and the very thought brought tears to his eyes," says Carney. "Everyone who came in contact with Marechal knew that he cared about doing the right thing for all Americans. He knew he fought for a reason. He was a very proud Vet. To me he was the essence of the Greatest Generation."

Like Jenkins, Carney recalls that Duncan always liked to speak last at meetings and that he would close each meeting by reminding those in attendance, "What you do today will be history tomorrow."

It is clear that Duncan will always be at the heart of Lafayette history.

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Sustainable inclusion project



Photo provided

Lucy, with her father Francisco Silva, holds up her finished sign.

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Additionally the Chamber of Commerce has given the Res Run signs for repurposing, adding to already donated signs leftover from Prop 22.

According to Sturm, "The concept is to have our LafSD Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees arrange for local children to decorate the signs with DEI symbols, artwork and/or welcoming words and

then replant the signs within our community to validate that all people are welcomed and valued in Lafayette."

In charge of this project is Susan Wiggen, head of Rapport – a Lafayette group that serves as the hub for the various Lafayette School District parent organizations. Wiggen explains that the point of this initiative is to empower the children to take on leadership in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She says that at the elementary level the District DEI committee brought No Place for Hate – a self-directed program intended to help members of school communities – to the district, then to principals. The middle school has the SLAM (Student Leaders' Anti-racism Movement) program involving 60 student leaders working with Dr. Lori Watson.

"Although each school is organizing these groups in a different manner, one idea is to really empower our student leaders to help with the anti-racism, etc., messaging," says Wiggen.

Springhill Elementary School fifth-grader Lucy Silva

appreciates the No Place for Hate program.

Lucy explains, "I joined the No Place for Hate committee because I think the world can use more kindness, I believe Black Lives Matter, and I think that making these signs for everyone to see helps everyone feel like they belong."

Wiggen believes that this particular project is a great example of a simple way to empower children's voices, in addition to helping keep valuable, reusable signs out of landfills. "The kids get a sense of pride and ownership while spreading crucial messages around diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our community by repurposing signs that would likely end up in landfills," she says. "And they do this while having fun!"

Sturm describes these creative projects with meaningful, teaching moments as a "win-win-win."

Rapport is working with DEI parent volunteers to distribute the old signs to the students. They hope to have some signs finished during the winter break and to do the bulk of them in early January.

After that the welcoming signs will be appearing around town.

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