



County of Los Alamos

Council Meeting Staff Report

January 29, 2019

Agenda No.:	B.
Indexes (Council Goals):	2018 Council Goal - N/A
Presenters:	Dino Sgambellone
Legislative File:	11610-19

Title

Recognition of Marvin Mueller's Donation and Scholarship

Body

Several months ago, Chief Sgambellone was approached by the family of the late Marvin Martin Mueller regarding a potential educational scholarship opportunity specifically focused on supporting Los Alamos County Police Department employees and their family members. The Marvin Martin Mueller Endowed Memorial Scholarship was ultimately established as a privately created scholarship fund managed by the LANL Foundation.

Chief Sgambellone, on behalf of the Los Alamos Police Department, wanted to express his appreciation for the scholarship as well as to publically recognize the benefactor, Mr. Marvin M. Mueller, who passed away in his White Rock home in February of 2015 at the age of 86.

Marvin Martin Mueller was born on September 29, 1928, in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, the first of two sons born to Elsie (Peper) and Martin J. Mueller. He was a quiet, precocious child who decided to become a mathematician or a physicist while in junior high school and he never wavered from that goal. Marvin and his brother started working evenings after school at an early age. Marvin worked for many years at a local drugstore where a wealthy patron recognized his potential and offered to loan him money to go to college. Marvin accepted the offer and entered the University of Oklahoma, while continuing to help out at home working double shifts at the drug store. Marvin would ultimately receive his BS degree in mathematics and physics in 1951. Marvin completed his PhD in physics in 1957 and subsequently applied to the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he would work for the next 35 years.

Marvin loved working at the lab and enormously enjoyed living in northern New Mexico. Marvin was always a generous person who was willing to help others in need. He also had several strong interests outside of physics, most notably, philosophy. In later years his philosophical interests gravitated toward the Humanist movement. Perhaps it was this newly found interest combined with his generous nature that moved him to want to make life better for his fellow human beings. Thus, in his will he specified that most of his assets were to be donated to scientific organizations, especially those involved in the teaching of science, human rights groups, and to numerous charities each of which helped people in one way or another. This desire to help others, along with feeling a debt of gratitude to the police department for their help in bringing some criminals to justice, led to the establishment of the Marvin Martin Mueller Endowed Memorial Scholarship.

Attachments

A - Mueller Scholarship Information