

A View from the Principal's Office

September 26, 2019

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I write this View with a heavy heart. As most of you know the Hartford community lost a treasure last week-end. I hope, in some small way, to honor Luna Ricker with this post and to accept the challenge that her life represented. Like so many, I do not remember the first time I met Luna – when I consider her presence in my life there isn't really a beginning – she was always there. I am sure that my path crossed with hers sometime during my ninth grade year at Hartford – probably during football season - though I likely knew of her long before that. Luna represented the Hartford community. She was present in our school hallways, our athletic fields, courts, and rink, our ambulance crew, at every game and event, and in our community. One was likely to see her to get an ankle taped, hear that she was a first responder at an accident that evening, grocery shopping the next day, and present for a community event. I can remember thinking on more than one occasion: Does Luna ever sleep? Luna loved Hartford and Hartford loved Luna in return. It is rare today to find someone who is so thoroughly enmeshed in her community that it becomes impossible to separate the two – Luna and Hartford are, and will forever be, one.

Luna's life was one of service – she was a servant to Hartford's community, young and old. This is the challenge that I cannot hope to achieve, but must accept. The word service is thrown around a lot today. Luna served completely, service was in her soul, she placed the community's needs ahead of her own and, in doing so, she lived a life that one simply does not witness today. Over the past few days we have heard stories from many of those she touched – at the core of each of these interactions was Luna's desire to serve. There is something to learn here and a model of a life lived that challenges me deeply.

How many of us will be able to say that the world is a better place because we were here? This is, in my opinion, Luna's legacy. Luna came into our community as a child, a 1966 graduate of Hartford High School, and returned to spend over 40 years serving within the Hartford School District – Hartford is a better place because she impacted so many of us. We observed her going about her quiet life; serving. One cannot help but be changed through knowing someone

so dedicated and when so many are impacted, it transforms a community. All of us that knew Luna carry some small part of her within us; we have passed it along to our children and students. During the past week, many of us have taken a moment here and there to look for Luna's spirit within our own.

Thank you Luna. It is with gratitude and a humble heart that I seek to live a servant's life that you modeled so naturally.

Thank you for reading,

Nelson Fogg
Principal