

Just Saying.....

By Doris Elmore

How Do You Say Goodbye?

Where do I begin on writing this article? I have been a newspaper reporter for more years than I care to remember, and you have to give careful consideration to each article you write. Whether it is covering a meeting, school function or human interest story there is always a way to start and a way to end. This particular story is difficult to write and to know where to begin.

All of us have been in the same situation at one time or another, losing a family member or friend. There is no one unique to a loss like this, it saddens your heart and makes it ache for the one you lost.

On Saturday, January 20, my husband and I (as well as many others) lost our dear friend and neighbor Jean Hendrickson. When we moved to Atwood in February, 1965, Jean lived across the street from the home we moved into and eventually purchased. Norma & Larry Ingram were the first to live in our subdivision and that means we have all been friends and neighbors for "lots of years." Norma still resides in the same home and we have remained close friends throughout the years.

When Jean lost her first husband Max in an automobile accident in November 1967, we tried to be there for her and her son Kevin and do what we could. This made us closer over the years. Jean was also there for us when our parents, brother and niece died, was like another grandmother to our son Brian and we have watched each other's families grow over the years. Through fun times and sad times we have been there for each other.

Those of you reading this can probably relate to having someone in their lives like Jean. From the time Jean came to the community she became active in scouts and school activities with Kevin, joined the Atwood Woman's Club, Atwood American Legion Auxiliary,

catholic societies, etc. She was continually busy helping others on many levels.

As Jean grew older, you would have thought she would back off a little and take things easier. Not Jean! She continued to work even harder being the best she could be working for this small community of Atwood. If more people would work half as hard as Jean did for the community, and do it in a positive way, we could whip the world. I have always heard if you want something done just ask a busy person. You can depend on them to get the job done.

Jean was 92 when she died and she was still working hard as treasurer for the Atwood American Legion Auxiliary, going with me to the Atwood Chamber of Commerce meetings, driving herself to the doctor in Decatur when she felt like it, drove to Tuscola to shop at the IGA and Dollar General or go to Joy Fay to get her hair done. She never forgot birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and other special occasions.

It was so much fun to hear her talk about her family, whether it be her son Kevin and his wife Debby, stepson Gary Hendrickson, grandchildren, great grandchildren, sister, nieces and nephews, she loved them all. She loved her family, friends and community. She wanted to see Atwood grow and prosper and encouraged others to get involved in community activities.

The chamber members tried to get Jean to be our Grand Marshal for the parade last year and she declined saying to find someone else who had done more. She did so many "behind the scenes" things for others never wanting any recognition. She knew the workings of the woman's club and the auxiliary frontwards and backwards. She always made sure things were done according to the rules of the organization. She read continually and if she didn't

know the answer to a question someone had, she read until she found it.

One would say she had a good long life living until she was 92. That is correct, but I can tell you her mind was sharp as a tack and she remembered it all. She had so much more to give. She was the type of lady that would do what she could, as long as she could.

I think you will find many people who agree with me that our community has lost a great lady who loved the town she had lived in for 70 years. She never stopped learning and giving to help make things better.

In the past few months my husband Roy would drive her to doctor's visits or anywhere else she needed to go. I would take her shopping when she wanted to go and we always had a great time. I can tell you we never stopped learning from Jean. Her family has thanked us over and over for helping "mom and grandma or aunt Jean" but I can tell you she did more for us than I can ever put into words. She was a friend and a confidant. She was like a second mom to us and to others. Her smile was infectious and she always had one for all she met.

Neighbors Nancy Crossman and Terry Patient helped with mowing and other yard work and many other miscellaneous things. Her family said this is the reason she stayed in her home for so long, but these things were labors of love. She gave us as much as we gave her, just in a different way. She made the best cookies, shared roasts she had made and always with a smile.

So we bid goodbye to Jean and all the help she has given to many over the years, but we will long remember the lessons and "rules" she taught us. Chamber member Jami Bowles remarked "Now who will keep us in line?" Jean's legacy will live on in the things that go on in the community and organizations she was a part of. Thanks for all you brought to our community and our lives Jean, you will never be forgotten. It will be automatic for me to look for your kitchen light to come on each morning!



Pictured is Douglas County Sheriff Joshua Blackwell, Jane Dallas, Deputy Kaitlin Washburn, and K9 Kuno.

Donation allows for Douglas County K-9 Kuno to receive protective gear

On January 25, 2019, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) recognized rural Tuscola resident Jane Dallas for her support of the DCSO K9 program and DCSO K9 Kuno.

Through Protecting K9 Heroes, a not-for-profit organization, Ms. Dallas provided a financial donation that allowed Protecting K9 Heroes to outfit Kuno with a medical kit that includes Narcan, as well as a ballistic vest. The total cost of this equipment is valued at over \$1000.

Ms. Dallas was invited to

the DCSO to see in person the equipment her donation provided, as well as presented with a plaque and letter of appreciation by Sheriff Joshua Blackwell.

The plaque read as follows, "In appreciation of your generous and unwavering support to K9 Kuno

Little Miss contestants wanted

We are currently looking for a few more contestants for the 2019 Little Miss A.L.A.H. Pageant!

It is open to girls ages 5 to 7 years old that live in the ALAH school district.

and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office K9 Program. Thank you!"

The equipment that Kuno was provided with will be instrumental in keeping him safe while he is working and ensure that he is able to continue to serve the Citizens of Douglas County.

Please contact Britney Kirby (217)372-4910, if you are interested in putting your daughter in this year's pageant.

Deadline is February 2!



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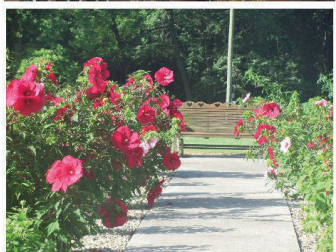


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Faisal Bukhari, MD
Adult Medicine (left) &
Whitney Kauffman, PA-C (right)

The HSHS St. Mary's Arthur Medical Facility is re-opening.

We are pleased to announce that we have re-opened our Arthur Medical Facility located at 525 N. Vine St. in Arthur.

Medical internist Faisal Bukhari, MD along with Whitney Kauffman, PA-C and Hayley Yoder, APN will be accepting new patients beginning Feb. 18, 2019.

To schedule an appointment, call the office at 217-928-1041.



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