



Since I was a camper, those words at Council Fire, “I believe we have a higher award to present,” have stirred a special excitement. Was I going to watch a Thor or an Odin be presented? What was going to be said about the camper receiving that award?

And here we sit at Council Fire on our 100th anniversary, having watched 5 wonderful Lanakilans receive a Duck of Distinction, and we have also heard those words again: “I believe we have a higher award to present.” What could that mean?

For adults and alumni, there is only one award that is higher than a Duck of Distinction. It is an award that has only been given 6 times, each to a Lanakilan who represents the highest aspirations and actions of the ideals we stand for. In each case, the person’s contributions have gone way beyond personal achievement and impacted our culture at its very core.

We often speak about Chapel being the heart of Lanakila and Council Fire being the soul. Our community soul is here; It is here that we feel our heritage, it is here we feel the strength of courage and the challenge of facing obstacles, it is here we have a deep sense of our connection to something greater than the individual camper or counselor; it is here that we offer a piece of ourselves each week to the on-going stream of goodness and spirit that we now celebrate in its 100th year. And it is here that we celebrate those unique people who have been essential in that journey.

Don McIntosh, will you please join me up here. Don, it is my honor today to present you with a Golden Chevron, Lanakila’s highest honor. It was originally given to Mrs. Carol when she stopped counting individual summers and is meant to signify, “For all the years!” and the timeless quality of service and love that you have given to Lanakila. I know it may have an even more special significance, because you retired from camp after your 39th summer even though so many urged you to come back for your 40th. In typical Don style, you decided that your 39th was enough and that coming back again might mean you couldn’t give it your best effort. You chose truth over personal distinction, a pattern which we have seen since you first joined this very unusual “Tribe of Vikings.”

A little history. You came over from Aloha and took over Lakeside in 1975. As a swimmer who still holds world records in various age groups, you also became a mainstay at the waterfront, upgrading teaching and competition in new and creative ways. You were also a master planner and organizer after teaching PE at Middlebury junior high and high school, and those skills eventually led to your being in charge of major special events at camp, especially our Olympic Games and the 4th of July Carnival. You were the unit head of Brookside after your Lakeside years, and you were known for your wonderfully zany acts at Counselor Talent night and various other performances. But what

became obvious, even in your early years, is that you were an all-camp personality who spread joy wherever you went.

Don, you epitomize someone who takes responsibility for their actions and their effect on others. You bring your best to whatever you do, and you encourage others to do the same in humorous and insightful ways. You once gave a Chapel talk on "Attitude," a talk that left a mark on everyone who heard it. You told us many years ago that no matter what happened in our lives, the thing we always had control of was our attitude. And we knew you were telling the truth because we saw you live that way every day of your life.

It may sound funny, but one of the key pieces of your legacy will always be your innumerable Brookside trips to Eagles Bluff. You tried to get every Brookside to go on one, at least in their first summer, and you brought magic and adventure to a hike which could have been pretty plain. Each trip included a search for Father Gulick's gold, a stop at the Icy Waterfall to see who could hold the world's record for staying under the longest, and a stop at Aloha where you somehow successfully managed to steal cookies from the kitchen every time. Each Brooksider returned with a sense of awe and wonder, and each returned feeling he had been part of something special. Counselors who saw you in action on those Eagle's Bluff trips spoke about you with reverence and amazement. You set the bar high for working with children. We are not here to share every event or accomplishment over your years at camp.

We are here to honor you and thank you for pouring every ounce of your spirit and love into this community we all cherish and for living a life which showed each of us, if we paid attention, that we could aspire to a greater dream of who we might be by watching you. You deserve to be spoken of in the company of others who have received this award.

So Don, as a representative of all those here today who truly believe this dream is worth fighting for, it is my distinct pleasure to present you with Lanakila's 6th? Golden Chevron.