

ST. FRANCIS
Est. 1946



HIGH SCHOOL

College Preparatory

Capuchin Franciscan

April 2018

Dear St. Francis Family,

In Ecclesiastes, we are reminded that “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Life truths are described by juxtaposing opposites like a time to be born and a time to die.

Very recently, on April 7, our St. Francis family lost a very dear friend, a man who embodied Franciscan virtues in all that he did. He was a gentle giant with a tremendous love for his family and an unwavering dedication to his Catholic faith. He was a man of God and of the Earth who shared his simple wisdom regularly – “Be good. Go to Mass.” Allen Lund was a truly remarkable man and we are grateful to Kathie, his wife of 57 years, and his family – his six children, David ’79 (Helen), Natalie (Kirk), Kenny ’82 (Mary), Eddie ’86 (Alicia), Anna (Mike), Christina (Steve) and his 22 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren for sharing him with St. Francis High School. Allen certainly enriched our lives beyond measure.

At his core, Allen was a trucker. Having grown up in rural Utah, Allen met his wife Kathie at an amusement park where they both worked. Kathie sold the thirty-five cent tickets for the ride Allen operated – it wasn’t long before the two married in the summer of 1960. For eight years, Allen operated heavy construction equipment until 1968 when he began working for CH Robinson, a third-party logistics company. This career move brought the Lund family to Los Angeles. In 1976, with only \$1,000, six children, Kathie working nights at a plastics factory and a tremendous leap of faith, Allen started Allen Lund Company with a simple goal of feeding his family. In his mind, he knew four truckloads a month would accomplish that goal. In time, with a work ethic that demonstrates the inspiration of the American dream, along with an unwavering commitment to all customers, the Allen Lund Company presence grew to 34 cities, with 450 employees and 300,000 annual shipments. Allen’s \$1,000 leap of faith had paid handsome dividends.

One of the greatest attributes about Allen, and there are many, is that he never forgot his roots. Allen was not only the leader of his company, he was a leader with the many schools and universities he loved. When St. Francis encountered financial difficulties in the 1990s, Allen was one of the first to offer his help. Principal Tom Moran remembers how Allen “rolled up his sleeves, advised, devoted his own time, resources and contacts to solve the issues and put the school back on a successful path. Not to demean our maintenance crew, but today, his fingerprints are all over campus; however, you have to hunt to find his name. It was never about him...his humility, integrity, leadership and generosity changed lives.”

Allen was our first Chairman of the Board of Directors at St. Francis High School. After serving in this role for sixteen years, Allen asked current Chairman Mark Heydorff ’70 to take over his role as

Chairman. Mark remembers asking Allen, "So you want me to be George Selkirk?" With a surprised look on his face, Allen responded, "Who the heck is George Selkirk?" Mark reminded him that Selkirk was the baseball player who followed Babe Ruth. "You see you can't replace Babe Ruth. And no one can replace Allen Lund."

As people of faith, let us share our joy for Allen's life, his Catholic faith and his love. His legacy is right here, forever in our hearts at St. Francis High School. Our Heavenly Father has certainly blessed Allen Lund, as Allen's life has certainly blessed all of us. Rest in peace, dear friend - we will miss you.

Yours in Jesus and Francis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Tony Marti, OFM Cap." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'F'.

Fr. Tony Marti, OFM Cap.
President