



Anaheim Loses Community Activist, Children's Advocate Jan Domene



It is with deep regret that the Anaheim High School Alumni Association announces the passing of Class of '69 alumna Jan (Harp) Domene, who unexpectedly passed away on Monday, Feb. 28.

Jan, immediate past president of the AHSAA, was currently serving as an Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) Board of Trustee, a position she was elected to in 2011.

A life-long Anaheim resident who was married more than 40 years to her high school sweetheart Greg Domene, also Class of '69, Jan dedicated her life to her family and the community.

From serving as the president of the National PTA to working in her three children's classrooms more than 30 years ago, Jan's life centered around advocating for children.

A true leader, her advice was always to "not let a stranger teach your children; get to know your children's teachers" and to support them.

Jan's children, all Colonist graduates, include Christina, '88; Kevin, '92; and Kyle, '95. The Domene children were schooled on the importance of giving back and watched their parents do so throughout the years.

From serving as Edison Elementary School's hamburger chairman, to knocking on doors to drum up membership while Anaheim High's PTA president, Jan moved on to higher levels of the PTA and ultimately served as president of the national organization with a membership of more than 5 million parents, teachers and students, including 155,000 in Orange County.



For several years she commuted from Anaheim to the PTA's Chicago headquarters and to the organization's Washington D.C. policy office to oversee a 28-member Board of Directors and 70 staff members. In addition, she traveled around the world and the United States to visit individual school sites and PTA's and to speak in front of governmental bodies, including the U.S. Congress.

Jan's goal, she said, was to ensure that the voice of children, parents and teachers were heard on the issues of education, safety, nutrition and equity in school funding. "Those issues will always be there, so I keep plugging away trying to do my part," she was quoted as saying in an article written about her when she was named 2009 "Woman of the Year" by Cypress College, one of Orange County's most prestigious awards.

Jan always credited an experience she had while a student at AHS for inspiring her to serve others. When her family couldn't afford the fee, Anaheim High PTA paid her \$50 yearbook camp fee when she was named Activities Editor. The gesture wasn't lost on her and she gave back an unaccountable amount to time, effort, love and compassion to her family, friends and community.

The Domene Family is establishing a scholarship in Jan's name through the AHSAA. Donations in her name may be mailed to P.O. Box 389, Anaheim, CA 92815.

Information on a memorial service will be made available as soon as the family is able to make arrangements. Questions and comments may be directed to anaheimalumni@yahoo.com

To read more about Jan, click on the following links:

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/pta-86992-jan-anaheim.html>

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/pta-62073-ptapresident-school.html>



Jan with daughter Chris and three of her grandchildren in 2010 Anaheim Halloween Parade.