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Alumni/Pathways Scholarship Dinner Remarks
Arend D. Lubbers
August 7, 2014

A few months ago Dan's father, Jamie Hosford died. He graduated from Grand Valley in 1977. He was 58 years old. I mention him not because of my affection for him, an affection that grew with the years as our time together increased. I mention him because he was a model alumnus. He was a contributor. After graduation he joined the Rockford School System. At the time of his death he was the Associate Superintendent. He was pretty much responsible for the cooperative spirit that exists there. He contributed to the success of one of our area's most successful school systems.

Two of his sons, Dan and Tom, came to Grand Valley. They played on our first National Championship football team, besting the record of the team their father played on

even though Jamie was one of our greatest athletes. To influence smart capable sons to attend your alma mater is a tradition-making contribution.

Jamie kept in touch with Grand Valley. He attended alumni events like this one, keeping his attachment to his alma mater strong. That attachment led him to favor young GVSU graduates when he needed teachers for the Rockford schools. That attachment led to his natural support for athletics where he was a booster with common sense; often consulted by athletic directors and coaches. He contributed to the growing pride many have in Grand Valley by his loyalty to his alma mater translated into action.

He always put his money where his loyalty was. If he was still living he would be here tonight giving to the

Pathways Scholarship fund; maybe even winning the costume contest. You could count on Jamie for more than talk. He contributed money.

When he died his friends wanted to remember him. There was no better way than to establish a scholarship fund in his name. There is now over \$80,000 in that fund. His former coach, Brian Kelly, now at Notre Dame, and his wife, Paqui, gave. Brian coached Jamie 35 years ago and his sons more recently. Once you knew Jamie he became part of your life and your affections. Rockford graduates who attend Grand Valley will benefit. So Jamie continues to contribute to Grand Valley through the love of his friends.

You can understand why I think he is a model alum. His life was enriched by staying close to Grand Valley and it

turned out that the University was a better place because he did.

Both Jamie and I are competitive. We gave full rein to that competitiveness on the golf course. One of his sons was his partner and my son, John, also a GVSU graduate, was mine. Those contests over the years became legend. I had more satisfaction pocketing winnings from the Hosfords than from any other matches, and I must admit more regret when I handed over a ten dollar bill to Jamie.

We are gathered together in this building, the latest jewel in Grand Valley's crown, as alumni, supporting a scholarship fund that will enable others to become graduates of Grand Valley. Being an alumnus or alumna is like being a member of a family. You may like your family and actively participate

in family occasions or you can be distant. Life is better when you have and stay involved. It is similar with your alma mater. I dwelt on Jamie Hosford tonight because I loved him, and I loved the way he loved Grand Valley. His was an experience that I hope for thousands of Grand Valley alumni.