



# Alumnews

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South Bend Alumni Association  
215 South St. Joseph Street  
South Bend, IN 46601  
Phone: 574-283-8153  
Fax: 574-283-8120  
Web: www.southbendalumni.com  
Email: sbaa@sbsc.k12.in.us

Summer 2013

## Welcome to Steve Luecke, new SBAA director

The South Bend Alumni Association is entering a new era with a change in leadership. Stephen Luecke stepped into the executive director's position on June 10. He replaces Ron Bella, who had served as director since the SBAA was founded in 1985. Bella left at the end of January. (See story on Page 2.) Luecke was the mayor of South Bend from January 1997 through December 2011, making him the longest-serving mayor in the city's history. In 2011 he received the Ideal Baldoni Distinguished Public Service Award from the South Bend Community Hall of Fame. "We're excited to have a person of Steve's caliber to lead our organization as we continue to develop and grow," said Tim Baker, chairman of the SBAA's Board of Directors.



Tim Baker, SBAA chairman, announced the appointment of Steve Luecke at the Alumni Association's annual Golf Tournament on May 15. From left are Baker, Luecke; School Superintendent Carole Schmidt., and Jim Kapsa, SBAA vice-chairman.

*Dear Friends of the South Bend Alumni Association,*

*I am excited to join the Alumni Association team and look forward to advancing its mission. I am grateful for the extraordinary work that has been done by Mr. Bella, members of the Board of Directors and countless volunteers. They have established an enviable track record. I pledge to work with you to strengthen the existing programs of the SBAA, while seeking to increase fund-raising and encourage membership growth. I thank you for your support for these vital initiatives. I am inspired by your pride in your schools and your commitment to South Bend.*

*Stephen J. Luecke*



Steve Luecke chats with school corporation workers during a meet-and-greet session on June 11.

### Background of new director

Steve Luecke grew up in Freeport, IL, the fourth of seven children.

He graduated from Aquin High School in 1968 and received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Fordham University, Liberal Arts College in Manhattan. Steve and his wife Peg moved to South Bend in 1973. They have been married forty-one years and have four children and three grandchildren. Before his time as mayor, Steve was a carpenter, a small business owner, construction manager for South Bend Heritage Foundation, and served nine years on the South Bend City Council.



## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Jessica Brookshire, Adams  
Steve Luecke, Associate  
Janice Putz, Central '59  
Todd Putz, Central '59  
Julie Stalker, LaSalle '75

## South Bend Alumni Association Board of Directors

### Officers

Tim Baker, Chairman—Central  
Jim Kapsa, Vice-Chairman—St. Joseph  
Susan Nufer, Secretary—Associate  
Lauren Davis, Treasurer—Adams  
Kevin Butler, Counsel—Associate

### Staff

Steve Luecke, Executive Director—Associate  
Nancy Sulok, Office Manager—Riley

### Active Board Members

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Kathy Borlik—Washington  
Jessica Kapsa Brookshire, Adams  
Jack Champaigne—Adams  
Michael Danch—St. Joseph  
Mikki Dobski Shidler—St. Joseph  
Jerry Donaldson—Adams  
Josi Doyle—Washington  
Tom Ehlers—Adams  
Joseph Fragomeni, Jr.—Adams  
Bob Frank—Central  
Robert Goodrich—Associate  
MaryLou Gordon—Woodrow Wilson  
Amy Heline, Riley  
Jamal Henry—Washington  
Carolyn Higgins—St. Joseph  
William Hojnacki—Central  
Greg Humnicky—Central  
Matt Kahn—Clay  
Paul Laskowski—Washington  
Marva Leonard-Dent—LaSalle  
Marv Moore—Adams  
Dan Morozowski—Washington  
David Nufer—LaSalle  
Robert Orłowski—Washington  
Paul Phair—Adams  
William Przybysz—Central  
Connie Varga—LaSalle  
Rev. Sylvester Williams—Central

### Chairmen Emeriti

Edwin Ehlers—Central  
Louis Baker—Riley  
Joseph S. Fragomeni, Sr.—Adams  
Robert DeCola—Adams  
Bill Gates—Jackson  
Mark Turner—Clay

### Emeritus Board Members

Tom Burzynski  
Dr. Virginia Calvin—Associate  
Patricia Czarnecki—Washington  
Tom DeBaets—LaSalle  
Gary Downey—Adams  
Elizabeth Farr—Central  
Michael Harding—Adams  
Maggie Kernan—St. Joseph  
Charles Lennon, Jr.—Associate  
David Lerman—Riley  
Ara Parseghian—Associate  
Ralph Pieniaskiewicz—Washington  
Andrew Place—Jackson  
Rick Rice—Associate  
Esther Robinson  
Mort Ziker—Adams

## Thanks, Ron

We want to thank Mr. Ron Bella for his dedicated leadership of the South Bend Alumni Association. Ron served as executive director of this organization since it was founded in 1985 as the South Bend School Boosters. Its original mission was to save School Field from demolition. After that goal was accomplished, the group looked for other ways to support students in the South Bend Community School Corporation. With Ron at the helm, the Alumni Association has provided more than \$300,000 in scholarships; awarded grants to schools for co-curricular activities that are not tax supported; and hosted the annual Community Hall of Fame dinner to honor exemplary South Bend residents who have distinguished themselves by service to community and/or extraordinary personal accomplishment. (You can find more information about these activities on other pages of this edition of Alumnews.) A proud graduate of Riley High School (Class of '52), Ron has maintained a firm belief in the value of public education. Whether as a teacher, coach, SBCSC athletic director, or executive director of the South Bend Alumni Association, Ron has had a positive impact on countless students and has set a firm foundation for this organization to grow that legacy. Thank you, Ron. Well done.



Ron Bella

## Remember the 1950s?

Clip on the pants cuff when riding a Schwinn. Eddie Fisher married Liz. We fast-danced to "Little Darling" and "Stagger Lee." Only girls wore ear rings. Gallon of gas for the car was 13 cents. Bread was 17 cents. We loved Frankie Avalon who loved Annette. Hollywood made movies once, not Rocky or Rambo Twenty, Star Trek Five and Indiana Jones Six. Lloyd Haynes in Room 222. Reagan was a Democrat whose co-star was a chimp. Howdy Doody. Elvis and his hips on the Ed Sullivan Show. Niles outdoor theater, aka passion pit (who watched the movies?). Beatles lived in gardens and Monkees lived in trees. Hardware was a box of nails and bytes came from fleas. Only Flash Gordon had a real space ship. Girls wore one-piece bathing suits to Tower Hill that covered both cheeks and hid cleavage. Skirts below the knees. Cold drinks came in a bottle, and we got 2 cents for each return. Mom made us brush our teeth with baking soda and use salt on teeth once a week. Middle age was 35, old was 43 and our parents were ancient. We wore our shirts inside our pants.

Bob Cebrat, Life Member of SBAA  
Pembroke Pines, FL

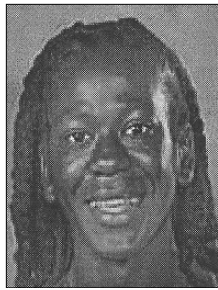
## Memorial Donations

Please refer to Memorials on page 7 of this newsletter.

In memory of Kurt Simon  
Ron & Shirley Bella  
Dave Dunlap  
Nancy Sulok  
In memory of Elmer Danch  
Ron & Shirley Bella  
In memory of Greg Gates  
Dave Dunlap  
In memory of Vince Peterson  
Dave Dunlap  
In memory of Joseph Sulok  
Dave Dunlap

## Contributions

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Marguerite Taylor  
Harold Zisla



Myles Bolden  
Adams



Kathleen Price  
Riley



Nicole Figueroa  
Washington



Andrew Gnot  
Edwardsburg



Emily Lyon  
St. Joseph



Melissa Konter  
Washington

## Alumni Association awards scholarships

Eleven local students recently received scholarships or grants totaling \$23,000 from the South Bend Alumni Association, announced Connie Varga, Scholarship Committee chairman. Recipients of the \$4,000 Superintendent's Scholarships are **Myles Bolden** of Adams High School, **Malcolm Cannon** of Clay High School, **Kathleen Price** of Riley High School and **Nicole Figueroa** of Washington High School. Bolden, son of Maxie and Constance Bolden of South Bend, has enrolled at Butler University to pursue a degree in elementary education. Cannon, son of Darlisa White of South Bend and Pierre Cannon of Gary, will attend IUPUI to study mechanical engineering. Price is the daughter of Allen Price and Frances Price, both of South Bend. She will study at East Carolina University with a goal of becoming a nurse practitioner in neonatology. Figueroa, daughter of Gus and Kelly Figueroa of South Bend, will pursue a pre-med course of study at IUSB. Tim Baker, Alumni Association chairman, presented those scholarships on May 16 during the school corporation's Celebration of Excellence in Student Achievement ceremony.



Toria Sullivan  
Clay



David Shafer  
Indiana State



Elizabeth Arndt  
Clay



Jacob Freske  
IUSB

\* \* \* \*

Also receiving scholarships are **Andrew Gnot** of Edwardsburg High School and **Emily Lyon** of St. Joseph High School, who each received a \$1,000 Endowed Scholarship. Gnot, the son of Edward and Lori Gnot of Edwardsburg, has enrolled at the University of Notre Dame to study computer science in the School of Engineering. Lyon, daughter of Mark and Christine Lyon of South Bend, will attend Indiana University where she plans to major in international affairs and peace studies. **Melissa Konter** of Washington High School received the \$1,000 Lauren Davis Scholarship to attend Ball State University. She is the daughter of William and Andrea Konter of South Bend. **Toria Sullivan** of Clay High School received the \$1,000 Kathryn & William Shields Scholarship to study in the College of Health Sciences at Marquette University. She is the daughter of Philip and Christine Sullivan of South Bend. **Elizabeth Arndt** of Clay High School received the \$1,000 Joseph Fragomeni Sr. Scholarship to pursue a degree at Purdue University. She is the daughter of John and Karen Arndt of South Bend.

\* \* \* \*

Second Chance Grants were awarded to **David Shafer**, who is studying at Indiana State University and **Jacob Freske**, a student at IUSB. Shafer, a graduate of Marian High School, is the son of James and Deborah Shafer of South Bend. Freske, an Adams High School graduate, is the son of Robert and Juliana Freske of South Bend. The South Bend Alumni Association held its annual Superintendent's Golf Tournament on May 15 at Elbel Golf Course. Proceeds from this annual outing assist in funding the scholarships. The Alumni Association is located on the fifth floor of the School Administration Building in downtown South Bend.



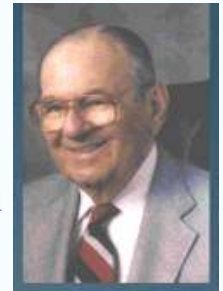
### 2014 Scholarship Program Announced

Connie Varga, chairperson of the SBAA scholarship program, said scholarship applications are accepted in the Alumni Association office. Active students in SBCSC high schools should apply through their school guidance office. Students from other schools who qualify for grants and endowed scholarships can get application forms online at the Association's web site, [www.southbendalumni.com](http://www.southbendalumni.com).

# In Memoriam

## Kurt Simon

The Alumni Association lost a wonderful friend and benefactor when Kurt Simon died in January at the age of 99. Mr. Simon was a regular attendee at the monthly Lunch Club gatherings and a generous donor to the SBAA. Among his contributions to the SBAA was support for the Community Hall of Fame banquet. He underwrote the cost every year for the meals of past inductees. Kurt and his late wife Tessye were inducted into the Hall in 2003. Mr. Simon came to the United States in 1930 as a German immigrant. After graduating from Central High School in 1931, he joined his uncle's business as a salesman while attending the University of Notre Dame. Simon Brothers, a distributor of food and industrial products, grew over the years. Mr. Simon sold it in 1984. He and Tessye, whom he married in 1942, were philanthropists and strong promoters of the South Bend and Jewish communities. They helped pay for the construction of the Kurt and Tessye Simon Community Building on the Jewish Federation's campus on McKinley Avenue in South Bend. They also provided money to Temple Beth-El in 1993 for an education center, and they created an endowment to pay for a rabbi and cantor at the temple. He also gave generously to secular causes, including \$100,000 to IUSB to renovate a courtyard there in honor of his longtime friend, Mary Lou Gordon.



Kurt Simon

in

## Edwin S. Ehlers

Ed Ehlers, a founding member and chairman emeritus of the Alumni Association, died June 17 in South Bend. He was 90. Ed was the original chairman of the board of the Alumni Association and the single largest fundraiser for it. He was inducted into the South Bend Community Hall of Fame in 1987. A 1941 graduate of Central High School, Ed played basketball and baseball there under the legendary coach John Wooden, with whom he remained friends for life. He attended Purdue University, where he played football, basketball and baseball. World War II interrupted his college days, but he returned to Purdue after the war and was a first-round draft pick in 1947 by the Boston Celtics and Chicago Bears. He also was a "bonus baby" for the New York Yankees. Ed later returned to South Bend and began his career in insurance. In addition to his involvement in the Alumni Association, Ed was extensively involved in the South Bend community, serving as president of the YMCA, member of the St. Joseph County Parks Board, and numerous other boards and commissions. He helped to develop Elbel Golf Course. His wife, Joyce, died in 2011. He is survived by four children, including his son Tom, a current member of the Alumni Association board.



## Richard 'Moe' Morrison

Riley '45 graduate Richard 'Moe' Morrison passed away in South Bend in January. He was a three sport athlete in high school who played on the Indiana State runner-up basketball team in 1945. He returned to teach and coach at Riley following military service and his graduation from Franklin College where he was a stand-out football player and team leader. Moe officiated high school sports for years and was a member and president of the SBCSC Board of School Trustees. He served on the Recreation Commission, the St. Joseph County Fair Board, and held state offices in vocational education. The recipient of numerous personal awards for his service to others, he will be remembered as an energetic, friendly and selfless giver of his time and talent to many worth organizations and causes. He will be missed by his wife Betty, his family, many friends and acquaintances.



## Joe Doyle

Joe Doyle, a 1997 inductee in the Community Hall of Fame, died May 10 in South Bend at the age of 92. Joe was a long-time sports writer and editor for the South Bend Tribune. He continued to write a column long after he retired in 1981. Joe served as president of the Council for the Retarded of St. Joseph County during the period when Logan Center and School were developed. He served for many years as a member of the Air Force Reserve, and was secretary-treasurer of the Moose Krause Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.



## The Lunch Club

An activity of the South Bend Alumni Association for former students, members, faculty, staff & their friends.

Meet, eat and socialize with friends, classmates and colleagues. Program consists of conversation, lunch, prizes, entertainment and information. Former students of all schools are invited, no matter which one you attended. The luncheons are on the second Thursday of each month unless there is a conflict and notification will be given.

**The Landing Banquet Center  
2801 South Michigan St.  
South Bend**

**(Formerly the Hans Haus)  
\*Reservations are required by  
9 a.m. Wednesday before a  
luncheon  
Call 574-283-8153**

Doors open at 11:00 A.M...  
Lunch is served just after noon.  
The cost is \$12 for SBAA Mem-  
bers  
or \$14 for Non-Members.

Call for information or  
go to our web site and  
Click on activities, then Lunch  
Club  
[www.southbendalumni.com](http://www.southbendalumni.com)

### Alumnews on Web & Hard Copy

This newsletter is available on our Web Site and hard copy. You must request a hard copy be sent to you. We ask for at least a \$2 dollar donation to cover the cost of printing and postage. Contact the Alumni Office and request your hard copy. Please leave your name and current address including Zip code.

## Lunch Club survey shows members like what we're doing

Lunch Club Chairman Bill Przybysz conducted a survey of the members in March and April to see if any changes should be made. Results showed that 82 percent of the respondents like The Landing, and 88 percent are satisfied with the menu choices. Everyone likes the Lunch Club Reporter, the monthly newsletter that features pictures and stories about the members. Eighty-three percent like the entertainment provided by school groups. During the summer, when schools are on break, Bill has lined up speakers from the community. In June, the Lunch Club heard from Shelley Lesniewicz, director of operations for the local Ronald McDonald House, which is located in Memorial Hospital. School students will return in July to perform selections from the Summer production of "Aida," with music by



Bill Przybysz  
Lunch Club  
Chairman

Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. School Superintendent Carole Schmidt will address the gathering in August, while Jeff Rea, head of the Chamber of Commerce, is planned for September. Bill also is planning another bus trip, perhaps to an area casino.



Lunch Club member Lucille DeCraene, Central '39, signals that she holds the winning ticket in April for the 50/50 drawing.



John Charles Bryant, Central '57, won a heart-shaped box of chocolates as a door prize in February.

One of the challenges of the club is to attract new members. In June, any potential new member who attended was charged half-price for the meal. The Lunch Club features door prizes, many of them donated by the South Bend Chocolate Co., thanks to owner Mark Tarner. Lunch Club members who are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary are eligible for a drawing for a free cake donated by David Hab of the Dainty Maid Bake Shop. Several Lunch Club members also donate items for the door prizes. We now are selling advertisements for the Lunch Club Reporter. Palmer Funeral Homes and Kaniewski Funeral Homes are advertising in the newsletter. If you have a business or know of a business that would like to advertise, have it contact the Alumni Association office to discuss details.

### Still need stuff...won't you share? Please!

We have been told people enjoy reading about former students—their whereabouts, careers, etc. E-mail us your photos and stuff. Each day we hear about former South Bend students who have had experiences that make interesting reading. Don't be shy about your travels and experiences. Please mail or e-mail info and photos to us. That makes it easier for us to reproduce for publication. Thanks.



**LET US KNOW THE DETAILS OF YOUR REUNION AND WE WILL POST THEM ON OUR WEB SITE. ..WE DON'T CHARGE. WE CAN ALSO CAN HELP WITH PRINTING AND POSTAGE.**

## **TCU-Superintendent's Golf Tournament deemed a success**

The annual TCU-Superintendent's Golf Tournament raised roughly \$31,000 for the Alumni Association's scholarship program. The golf scramble teed off at 10 a.m. May 15 at Elbel Golf Course, a new venue this year. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious and everyone had a good time. Co-chairmen Susan Nufer and Bob Goodrich did a terrific job of handling all the details. Other members of the Golf Committee were Ron Bella, Dave Dunlap, Greg Humnicky, Nancy Sulok and Mike Szymanski. They worked with Elbel's golf pro, T.J. Mannen, to make sure everything



*Vic Budd, left, and Steve Meyer, two members of the OJS team, hold the trophies for their first-place finish.*

*Rob Cole with the Technical Water Treatment team, prepares to hit the ball.*

ran smoothly. Hacienda Mexican Restaurants and Papa Murphy's Pizzas again offered free treats on the golf course. KSS Enterprises, a company based in Kalamazoo that does business with the school corporation, generously underwrote the cost of the golf shirts that were given to each golfer and volunteer worker. Adidas Notre Dame, the South Bend Chocolate Co., Barnaby's Pizza, Cheddar's, Allie's Café and other local businesses were generous with their donations of door prizes. New this year, Dixon Golf offered a special contest on one of the holes to demonstrate its golf balls. Each golfer who paid a \$10 fee received a Dixon golf ball, a chance to win a sleeve of balls, and a certificate for a free golf club. Thanks to all of our sponsors and golfers for making it possible to continue helping local students attain a college education.



*Dave Pontius of the STL team stoops to line up his putt for the correct angle of shot..*



*Golfers pause in their cart while a pair of herons escort their chicks from the woods to Mud Lake on the golf course.*



*Volunteers Dan Morozowski and Sherry Barker watch to see if anyone makes a hole in one. The hole-in-one contest was new at the 2013 tournament.*

## **South Bend Community Hall of Fame Dinner**

We are eagerly looking forward to the annual Community Hall of Fame Dinner on November 12, 2013, at Century Center. This special evening celebrates the extraordinary contributions of local residents who have distinguished themselves through dedicated community service and professional achievement. HOF Chairman Jim Kapsa and several committees have been at work reviewing nominees submitted to the Alumni Association, narrowing the list from more than 100 names to the select handful who will be recognized this year. Honorees will be announced in the Fall. Plans are in the works to make this the best Hall of Fame dinner yet. So, circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend this heart-warming event.



## A Message From Our Superintendent

First, I want to welcome the new Executive Director, Mr. Steve Luecke. The organization will be well served by his experience and expertise.

On behalf of the students and staff of South Bend Schools I extend my sincere appreciation to the SBAA for the vast amount of resources provided to our students. Without your support, these students would not be having the quality experiences and opportunities afforded to them.

Knowing the high level of commitment by the Association members is comforting during these challenging economic times, the needs of our students and staff far exceed the ability of the Corporation to fully support. Of great value is the expectation by the Association to the groups who receive funds that they also "give back" to the community in the form of some level of community service. Giving back to this great community makes us all stronger.

Thanks you for all you do for the South Bend Community School Corporation.



*Carole Schmidt*

### Extra-Curricular Fund Established

The SBAA always has provided funds to schools to pay for activities that don't get tax money. In the past, we loaned schools the money, with the expectation they were to pay it back. Our new policy requires students to perform community service as a pay-back for the funds. We consider this a win-win program, with the students winning the funds and the community winning through their volunteer service. However, we need an ongoing source of funding for the program. If you or your company would like to support this worthwhile endeavor, contact the Alumni Association or use the form at the bottom of this page to make a contribution.

### Bill Moor Does Biographies

Tribune columnist Bill Moor is writing biographies of area residents. These one page features are titled 'Our Stories.' Bill tells us that you can contact him if you would like him to do a page on you and a page on your spouse. The stories are for your private use, and then you might just show up in one of Bill's weekly feature stories. You can contact Bill at [ern14est@yahoo.com](mailto:ern14est@yahoo.com)

## Chairman's Comments

This is an exciting time for the South Bend Alumni Association. We had a successful golf outing in May to support our scholarship program and committees have been working hard to ensure another inspiring Community Hall of Fame dinner on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We are deeply committed to supporting our students and our schools. The SBAA is focused on raising additional resources to assist school co-curricular activities which are not tax supported. Stay tuned as the Alumni Association takes its game to a new level, enhancing our partnerships with the School Corporation and the community. If you are not a member of our association, please consider joining. If you are already a member, take the next step and become a Life Member - or make a donation to support our scholarship or co-curricular initiatives. Show your school spirit! Help us to help our children and our schools to be the best that they can be.



*Tim Baker*



### MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAIDEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
 TYPE: ( ) NEW MEMBERSHIP ( ) RENEWED MEMBERSHIP — EMAIL: ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHECK ONE: ( ) 2 YEAR SBAA MEMBERSHIP @ \$25 ( ) LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP @ \$75  
 CONTRIBUTIONS:

UNRESTRICTED DONATION TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 DONATION TO EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOLARSHIP DONATION: KURT & TESSYE SIMON STUDENT GRANTS \$ \_\_\_\_\_; JOSEPH S. FRAGOMENI, SR. SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TCU/SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND: \$ \_\_\_\_\_; LAUREN DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ALUMNI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND (PLAN2000) \$ \_\_\_\_\_; WILLIAM & KATHRYN SHIELDS SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SOUTH BEND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION)

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## We appreciate their support

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