

## AL'S MUSKY CHALLENGE 2021 - IN MEMORY OF DAVID AMBORN

God who brings our hope and joy and celebration today:

We give thanks for the incredible patience and strong arms that gave Al Louis the ability to sit in all kinds of weather, casting thousands of times, to land some wonderful fish so that dreams might be landed here today.

And we would be remiss if we didn't thank you for those muskies, such beautiful examples of your creation.

We celebrate the energy and enthusiasm of corporations and businesses and so many people from Arizona to Duluth and beyond who have given generously to bring us to this day.

We celebrate with Children's Miracle Network, and children and families who will receive gifts of life, and caregivers who are able to do so much more. We thank you for the radio telethon going on right now, and bless you for all involved.

We celebrate all the children who squeal for joy as they run from floor to floor at the Children's Museum. We thank you for imaginations and busy minds and fingers that are energized there, and we thank you for all the leadership that has brought forth an idea now shaped into this incredible place of learning and inspiration.

We celebrate the children and adults who learn to shape and share stories on stage at the La Crosse Community Theater, those who learn to create beautiful scenes and backdrops, those who learn to work with sound and light and costumes. We thank you for the ways our hearts and minds are expanded as we receive their gifts and stories.

We thank you for a place of welcome and support at the Coulee Recovery Center. For all those who are learning to live one day at a time, we offer our prayers, and we thank you for all who are fighting the epidemic of alcohol and drug abuse.

As we give thanks in this celebration today, we are painfully aware of one whose inspiration lies behind each recipient, one who sat in countless board meetings and held so many meaningful conversations to shape their missions and their futures. We remember the boundless energy and enthusiasm of David Amborn we remember his thoughtful support and encouragement of all these great endeavors and organizations, we smile as we keep hearing him say "let's get ready to rumble". Our hearts still ache that he left us so suddenly. We are inspired by his legacy.

We grieve that we have walked to this day through a pandemic, knowing that over 100 of our neighbors in this county along with countless others have lost their lives to the struggles Covid-19 brings. We join our hearts now in silence to acknowledge David, and many others, who have helped bring us to this day:.....

So now we proceed, together, lifting each other up as we share these many gifts. Amen.

*By Rev. Dr. Mark Jolivette, October 15, 2021 at Rotary check presentation*

