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President of the Alumni Society

Remarks for the David P. Montgomery OPC '64 Alumni Award of Merit

Given May 6, 2022

On behalf of the Alumni Society, congratulations once again to David, Liz and Debbie on your well-deserved awards. You are a credit to this old school.

I am humbled and grateful to be here this evening with you all to honor our friend David P. Montgomery OPC '64 by naming our most prestigious award, the Alumni Award of Merit, after him so that all future generations of OPC's remember David as we gather together each year on OPC Weekend. I want to welcome David's wife Lyn, daughter Susa OPC '00 and son Sam OPC '91 who are with us this evening. Lyn, Susa and Sam, thank you for allowing us to honor David together.

The theme of this year's Alumni Society Board of Directors is Service to Others. Everything we have done this year fell into the context of serving one another, our fellow OPC's, and our community. This included hosting our annual retreat at an OPC-owned business; engaging with the Center for Public Purpose to learn more about the great work they do each day in our community and to provide a variety of volunteer opportunities for board members and fellow OPC's; and catering the upcoming Senior BBQ by another OPC-owned business. It is only fitting that three years after David's passing, the alumni society is honoring a man who lived his life to serve others while making his family, his school, and his city so proud.

I would challenge each of you here today to name an OPC who lived to serve others in our community more than David. David believed the virtue of service was in the act of doing it, and each day, David could be found serving others. In the words of many OPC's who reached out to me, Michelle and other members of the Alumni Board of Directors after David's passing in 2019 to find out how we as an alumni society planned to honor him, no OPC contributed more to the school over the past 25 years than David and his family, and I am not referring to financial contributions. Time and again, when Penn Charter came calling, David always answered YES. His impact on our school over the past 25 years is truly immeasurable.

The Alumni Award of Merit reads as follows:

“To a graduate of the William Penn Charter School whose character and outstanding achievement have reflected lasting credit upon this old school”

David was deservedly awarded the Alumni Award of Merit in 2005. Many of you here know of David's achievements as President of the Philadelphia Phillies during the team's most successful run in franchise history, which took place from 2007-2011, and move from Veterans Stadium to beautiful Citizens Bank Park, which took place in 2004. His professional career would result in his posthumous induction into the MLB Hall of Fame in 2020 as the 5th ever Buck O'Neil Lifetime

Achievement Award Recipient, only awarded every 3 years. The prior winner of this prestigious award was Rachel Robinson, the widow of the late, great Jackie Robinson, who as many of you know broke baseball's color barrier. Lyn gave one of the most eloquent and poignant induction speeches in the history of the Hall of Fame that day and referred to David's Quaker roots. To share with you just once sentence from Lyn that still resonates with me each day- "David loved his job for the ability to impact the lives of others less fortunate than he was."

To provide some additional context, no MLB executive was as universally revered and respected as David was throughout the country, a point MLB commissioner Rob Manfred highlighted while speaking at David's memorial service following his passing in 2019.

However, I am not here to discuss at length David's professional achievements. For those of you who did not know David personally, I would implore you to ask Jack Rogers, Beth Glascott, Jane Evans, or Dr. Ford to share a story or two about David. I am here today to share a little bit about David's character and why he meant so much to our school and our community, and I hope those of you that did know David even better than I did will appreciate and reflect on some of these stories. That includes Governor Rendell, Mike and Leslie Stiles, Richard Deats, and other long-time friends of David & Lyn's who are with us this evening.

David's grandfather left a small amount of \$ in his will expressly for David to attend Penn Charter, and it would alter the course of his life, which he reflected on in great detail when he shared what PC meant to him as the keynote speaker of a "Thank You Reception" for donors in 2018, the last time he would address the PC community. David would later graduate Wharton and spend his entire professional career living and working in our community. I was fortunate to work for David for 16 years as a member of the Phillies front office and in addition to the way he always treated me and my fellow colleagues and our fans with kindness, dignity and respect, two things stood out.

Phillies Charities is the charitable arm of the Phillies organization and makes gifts to organizations that serve a wide variety of needs in the Delaware Valley and particularly those serving the greater Philadelphia area. To most observers, the importance and impact of Phillies Charities was just as important to David and Lyn as the success of the team on the field. The Phillies are a local institution and had a responsibility to serve our community, and David and Lyn carried that responsibility with dignity, class and a dogged determination to serve those in need. Service to others...always.

As a local institution, David would frequently remind people that we are not just "The Phillies"; we are the Philadelphia Phillies- our first name is Philadelphia. We represent our city and our community. Players, executives, employees, and ballparks may come and go, but the Phillies will always reside in Philadelphia and serve as a point of pride in our community. It was our responsibility to serve our community with class and put our fans first, always. David led by example, always. Service to others...always.

I hope everyone here this evening and future generations of Penn Charter students, faculty and staff who sit in this meeting room and see David's name on the back wall will remember a humble man who loved his family, our school, the PC community and our local community. A man who accomplished so much professionally but lived to serve others, always. We can sit here and reflect on our own lives and ask ourselves if we are living up to the example of all of our Alumni Award of Merit winners listed on the back wall of the meeting room, now headlined in perpetuity by David. David was a person who never lived for or sought out awards but was always so deserving, just as he is today. In times of challenge or conflict, those that knew David, including myself, still ask ourselves "What would David do" to this very day. As Lyn has said: "David committed his life to one of honesty, fairness and kindness at an early age. Honesty and integrity are two of the most important qualities he would like to be remembered for."

One final story of a more personal nature before I conclude. I have shared this story with Susa and a few others, and hope David's family doesn't mind me sharing it with you all this evening. The last time I saw David before his passing was the winter of 2019 during one of our management lunches in the Executive Dining Room at Citizens Bank Park. David was courageously battling cancer and still coming into the office as often as he could, or perhaps Lyn allowed. As others were sitting down to enjoy lunch and talk amongst colleagues, David stood near the front of the room and asked me to come over to him. As I approached, he pulled out his phone and showed me a picture- a picture of him standing in Penn Charter's Pre-K classroom holding up a sign that read OPC '64. Next to him was Susa holding up a sign that read OPC '00. Next to Susa was David's grandson Cameron holding up a sign that read OPC '31. I looked up at David who had a tear in his eye, as did I by this point. At that moment, I never saw David so proud. Not after opening Citizens Bank Park in 2004. Not after winning our first NL East Division Title in 14 years in 2007. Not after winning the World Series in 2008 or winning back to back NL pennants in 2009. For a man who would later be inducted into the MLB Hall of Fame, his profession's highest honor, and be remembered by his peers as the most beloved and respected executive in his industry, what mattered most to David was his family....and Penn Charter.

I'd like to welcome Becky Miller Hon. 1689 to introduce the 2022 David P. Montgomery OPC '64 Alumni Award of Merit recipient, Charlie K. OPC '71.