

Not, how did he die, but how did he live?

Not, what did he gain, but what did he give?

These are the units to measure the worth

Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

Was he ever ready, with word of good cheer,

To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say,

But how many were sorry when he passed away?

Although Doug wanted a celebration it is with heavy heart today that we all gather. All of us were touched by his strength, his character, his smiles and hugs and his love. All of us will treasure the times we shared with Mr. Love and he will be deeply missed.

I am certain he would appreciate if I started this dedication the same way he started his classes...so...

"I don't know if i should read this or not, but your teacher left me a note and she said not to worry; this group is sharper than the blunt side of a mashed potato."

Today let us celebrate the life of Mr. Doug Love and remember all of the remarkable things he did and stood for and how truly wonderful his life was. That is what he would have wanted us to do.

His quick wit and quirky sense of humor transcended decades. He donned crazy hats and wigs on special days, one featuring a stuffed turkey for Thanksgiving, and a blue wig with curlers on "Pajama Day." He attended sporting events, band concerts and plays. He volunteered at the greeter's desk, and showed up for more PTA meetings than most parents do and he was a board member and Treasurer of Just About Kids.

Doug was described in many ways:

A gentle bear with a big paw, Dr. Love, kind, amazing, adorable and always loving.

All the humor and the wit make up the stories we will remember but Doug was so much more than that. He deeply believed that one needed to be true to themselves and to their core values and beliefs. His beliefs centered around honor, integrity, commitment, humility and most of all love. First and foremost he loved his precious wife May. Mr. Love's wife of almost 65 years, thinks her husband was so popular because, "He cared about the kids

and they knew it. He was strict with them, but he really did care about them and they realized it." When asked about his best personality feature, May hesitated only a few moments and then laughed and said, "Oh, I guess it was his sense of humor!"

Two of May's favorite stories of Doug that she loves to tell are first, about the night Doug asked her to marry him. He told her he wanted to take her for a ride very early one morning long before the sun came up. Reluctantly she agreed and they drove off to a beautiful spot that overlooked a valley....he wanted to wait until the sun was just coming up to pop the question which he did, but the funny part was Doug's lack of due diligence regarding the romantic overlook. Because when the sun rose they could see that the beautiful overlook was actually garbage dump. But, that didn't seem to matter May said yes anyway.

The other story she loves to tell was about when they went dancing on their honeymoon...she says he was quite the dancer. She stood on her tiptoes and told him "now is when you should whisper sweet nothings into my ear". After a moment of thought he bent down and with her in his arms gently whispered "sweet nothings...sweet nothings" she says she knew then their lives would forever be filled with humor.

Doug's second love was the apple of his eye - "daddy's little girl" Judy and he spoke of her all of the time. He often would always say "she was totally incorrigible and he didn't have any idea where she got that from."

He loved his entire family and kept in close contact with all of them even those in Canada and in Australia. He loved his church and he LOVED Kingwood High School.

The indelible legacy left by Mr. Love at Kingwood High School is truly based on his incredible commitment and dedication to teaching our children old-school values, like honesty, to always do the right thing, and to always give 100 percent of yourself. He taught these lessons by modeling the right behavior. He was an amazing man and all that knew him grew to love him very much.

Mr. Love was a quiet leader. He believed deeply to serve the students he needed to spend time with them, get to know them and he used to say it was more effective to listen more and talk less. He led by example and his example was not just for the students, as he spoke often about how his

wished that his “old school” parenting ideas would make an impact on the parents as well.

Doug always gave credit to others and never missed a chance to thank someone. He never boasted about his accomplishments. Most people don’t know but Doug had a very successful career as a Chemical Engineer prior to becoming a substitute which was really just his “retirement job”.

Doug’s word was his bond and his handshake was his commitment. He took his job as a substitute very seriously in fact stories are told by teachers about 9 and 10 page memos he would write about the class he was sub’ing for and they would include notes about his interaction with the students and their attempted antics. “Attempted” being the key the word here because the students soon learned they couldn’t get away with much if they had Mr. Love as a sub.

But, Doug resisted the temptation to preach his philosophies to his students instead, he stealthily waited for strategic moments to inject a life lesson: he would say "They have to ask me a question where it opens a door that I can slip through." And when you would think eyes would glaze during a tale about life during the Depression, Mr. Love usually got applause and

nodding heads especially when he delivered his "35-cent talk" about the real world to the seniors. It was a tradition for Mr. Love to give this 35 cent talk and this year won't be any different. The week before he passed, a videotape was made of him delivering the speech and it will be played at graduation practice and also keeping with tradition his "words of wisdom page" will be copied and delivered to each senior.

Doug was described by one as one of the most popular dudes on the Kingwood High campus wearing hearing aids, trifocals, pants that rode high rather than low, and was prone to expressions like "bull corn."

So what made him such an amazing substitute and role model?

First, Mr. Love always found it easy to keep control over KHS students in the classroom but, he also expected the students to question his authority. He used to say "When they challenged me, I would just tell them, 'You're not going to win, so you might as well quit arguing with me."

He also used to say he was successful because "he came prepared"; he would say "students can smell disorganization like they can smell fear". He ran a "tight ship" and he came to realize that most students "really preferred fences," even if they enjoy testing those boundaries". Through the years, Mr.

Love always said he learned a lot from the students. He was quoted once saying:

"So much you hear about teenagers is negative. And it's just not true. They really are thinking and compassionate people." He believed that teenagers are not totally wrapped up in themselves. He would say "that they do have heart, and they think outside the box. And they know life does not totally revolve around them. Sometimes if we (the adults) spent more time listening to them we would learn not just about them but also about ourselves."

Adoring students say they can not imagine the halls without their favorite substitute teacher, who, at age 90, had spent a quarter-century imparting words of wisdom and second-hand lesson plans to generations of teenagers. Walking the halls of Kingwood High School, sharing his philosophies, sharing his wit and his love, truly was what Doug felt gave purpose to his life.

Doug wondered sometimes whether he really made a difference, whether he really had an impact. But you only have to look at his facebook page to understand the impact he had – how many substitute teachers do you know that have a Facebook fan page that students set up with more than 4,600 likes!

And then, you only have to look at the comments on those facebook pages to drive home the impact this man had on the lives of so many....

One student wrote...

"He's not just a sub who was bored and decided he needed some extra money," said a 17-year-old senior. "The fact that he cares for the students, it's something that we really connect to. He's become almost more of a symbol of Kingwood High School than any tradition or mascot."

A prior student wrote:

People are lucky if they "reach" just a handful of folks in this life. Mr. Love impacted 1,000's and allowed us to witness the display of a life with cause and purpose. He took one of the most un-gratifying jobs on the planet and made us endear it. Thanks for allowing me and all the others to witness it Mr. Love. Oh and...Sorry if I wasn't always the easiest student to sub for in the late 90's, but I grew up.

A fellow substitute wrote:

He is what all of us subs aspire to be...to make a difference in kids' lives. He did that and he did it well! He will be dearly missed and never forgotten!

A Community member: wrote

Surprised at how heavy my heart will be today after learning of the passing of Mr. Love. Anyone who can take the role of substitute teacher, A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER, and make it one that is endeared is so special. What a special person, and what a loss the Kingwood Community will be left with....

From a District Teacher:

The students at KHS are so fortunate to have had such a remarkable role model. Every child should see such beautiful humanity.

Other students wrote:

First met him in 1990. He was one on three teachers I went back to see whenever I came back to town. I hope he can see how many lives he touched.

Mr.love was the best thing about kingwood high he put a smile on everyone face with his adorableness and he will be truly missed

Mr. Love, I was the one with the remote control that would turn the volume up and down and turn on and off the television while watching a movie... about twelve years ago. Sorry about that

I was there from 91 to 95 and he was there for most of that time, if not all of it. That man is a trooper! To put up with all of our shenanigans and never lose that trademark smile of his says a lot about the core and character of Mr. Love.

We had Mr.Love as a substitute teacher when I was in high school and he made such a huge impact on my life. He is a wonderful person! NO ONE and I mean NO ONE ever forgets Mr.Love

Mr. love you rock

He was ...One of the greatest men to walk the halls of Kingwood High

Mr. Love. You inspired hundreds of students with your humor. You brought so much joy just by being you. And I am sure you already have your halo hat on.

But, perhaps the most endearing quote was:

I believe there's a lot of Good men in this world.

And there is a handful of Great men.

Then there's Mr. Love.

He deserves his own category.

There are not words to express how much Doug Love will be missed. And although he is not with us in person, his memory, his legacy and his love will live on in our hearts forever.

And so, as we reflect on Doug's life let us pause today and give thanks for the love of our families, our children and our friends, but also let us also add a few words for our truly great teachers, and for the few and far between, precious Mr. Loves, who have graced our lives.