

“Lynda Carlberg left a meaningful legacy...” (from *American Press*, Nov. 23, 1997)

It is said that good things come in small packages. Lynda Carlberg was proof of that old adage. Outside of her physical appearance, however, there was nothing small about Lynda. Her dreams were big – her drive to plan for those dreams was bigger – and her ability to build those dreams into reality was colossal. The excellence of the Calcasieu Parish Library System, which Lynda so skillfully administered for almost 20 years, is the direct product of her dreams, her drive, and her abilities. The magnitude of her contributions to our quality of life in Calcasieu Parish is so great, I’m not sure any of us can fully comprehend it. The width and breadth of her influence on our collective intellect, wisdom, and enjoyment will continued to be discovered for generations. While Lynda was far too young to have the phrase about the 3R’s, “reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic,” I know she applauded the fact that it recognized which discipline should be properly placed first in the listing! Her mission was to see that those of us she served would have every opportunity to keep “reading” first on our lists and near to our hearts.

I have never known an individual to possess a greater blend of competence in, and passion for, a given field of endeavor than Lynda. She loved library work, and she practiced it with an extraordinary flair and proficiency. To those of us who had the pleasure of knowing her and working with her, we count such an opportunity as one of life’s great honors and privileges. We will miss her immensely, as a friend and as a colleague... in fact we already do. But while this diminutive lady is gone from our presence, she continues to live through her gifts of her time, her vision, and her heart as reflected throughout libraries across this parish. The fruits of her labor will indeed assure Lynda Carlberg’s presence with us for generations to come.

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