

pain and anguish had replaced his usual smile, and with each passing day, he looked more like my grandfather. It all seemed like a bad dream, both frightful and surreal.

While packing his belongings, hours after he had passed away, I found a note intended for me. It was in Father's handwriting; blurry scribbles because the medicine made his hands shake. I sat down and cried because it said in Spanish, "ya es tiempo de luchar," which means, "it is time to take up the struggle."

The poem he wrote to me, titled "Oda a mi Hijo," "Ode to my Son" goes like this:

Quiero cantarte una cancion,
(I want to sing you a song)
Desde lo mas profundo de mi alma,
(From the deepest part of my soul)
Brisa suave, que refresca y calma,
(Soft breeze that refreshes and soothes)
Tu tierra fecunda que riega mi oracion.
(Your fertile soil that showers my prayer)
El agua se hizo luz y dio una planta,
(The water turned to light and created a plant)
La tierra hecha vida, dio on rosas con un boton,
(The soil transformed into life and bore a rose in full blossom)
Carne de dos almas hecha con amor,
(Flesh from two souls, made with love)
Fue la suave brisa, que refresca y canta.
(It was the soft breeze that refreshes and sings)

Con el correr de los años, pajarito se volvio,
(As the years passed, it transformed into a bird)

Dejar el nido quiere, hace el intento de volar,
(Yearning to leave the nest, it attempts to fly)

La brisa, el amor, el cielo derramo,
(The breeze, the love, the heavens overflowed)

El destino esta en tus manos, ya es tiempo de luchar.
(Destiny is in your hands, its time to take up the struggle)

I find it hard to understand Dad's absence, and that he left exactly on my seventeenth birthday. But though I miss him everyday, I am grateful for all the time we spent together and everything my father taught me. Through my family's Mexican restaurant, he showed me what Hispanic business leadership is: hard work, dedication, and most importantly, helping others and the community.

My father pointed me in the right direction, and made me believe in myself. There is good in this beautiful world, and life will always receive my best effort. Rather than cause embarrassment, my heritage will always instill pride within me, and I will succeed. I know he is proud of me.

Ultimately, by succeeding I hope to influence other Hispanics. When I look at many of my Hispanic peers, I see them giving up on school, giving up bright futures, and giving up their dreams. Their intellectual capacity has nothing to do with it, and the issue is complicated, yet they also do not have the support or the opportunities.

At this point, I would like to thank my parents for their unending love, my family for their constant encourage-

ment, and all of my friends for their help and support. I would also like to thank Mr. Paul Torno, who worked with me even after retiring. Special thanks to Mr. David Layton . . . even though I lost my father, a great man and teacher, I am lucky to have found another great teacher, another great man. Finally, I thank my mother, an incredibly brave and strong woman. Most of all, however, I thank God all the blessings.

I and the other scholarship recipients, as well as countless other Hispanics, are yearning to fly . . . trying to fly . . . learning to fly . . .

Once again, I would like to thank the Hispanic College Fund, and its sponsors.

We want to demonstrate that anything is possible by working hard and following our dreams.

We want to see more Hispanics graduating from high school and college.

We want to have more Hispanics in business and government positions.

We want to truly thank all of you for helping us strive towards our goals.

Thank you and good night.

March 25, 1999.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, Luis Robles has asked me to recommend him for acceptance for your scholarship. Few tasks will be as easy for me to do. I have known him as a student for two years in both honors history and honors English classes so I feel quite qualified to speak about his application.

It is impossible for me to recommend Luis without telling his story first. No other student in my 19 years of teaching has accomplished more with such adversity. An only child of immigrants from Mexico, Luis learned more than values from his parents; he learned who he was, who he could become, and what he could give back to his community. His father ran a small restaurant on our island and hired family and friends who needed work; but to keep dreams alive he insisted they go to night school and paid their tuition if they maintained a B. This pride and dignity wrapped in such strong humor are his legacy. Tragically last year his father died of Leukemia in his son's arms on his son's 17th birthday. As the only one who spoke clear English, Luis sold the restaurant, managed his mother's accounts, supported her till she finished her AA degree, and found work at the local hospital.

His commute to Bainbridge is 60-80 minutes each way. But he knew what he wanted—to be blunt we run one of the hardest programs in the state. He has aced every honors or AP course we offer. His maturity is beyond his years. He seeks out criticism and he listens and grows with suggestions. Specifically he has worked hard on his writing knowing that here his voice needs to be clear and purposeful. In both independent and group projects, Luis has had the discipline and creativity to make the connections between ideas, events, and more importantly to things in his own life. His work has shown original thought and a true conviction to understand the complications of individuals struggling to find meaningful solutions to their problems. Luis embodies the belief that this is his life, his chance to make a difference, his chance to give back far more than he takes. Make no mistake, he will take advantage of all you offer.

Luis has shared with my family the poetry his father wrote and the poems he has now written back. It is his genuineness that I

wish to commend most. His 4.0 G.P.A. has been matched, the high marks on the SAT equaled, but none have his vision.

It should be obvious how strongly I feel about Luis; his heart separates him from the rest. If you have the chance to talk with him, you will understand.

Sincerely,

DAVID LAYTON,
Faculty, Honors Program.●

HONORING ANNE KANTEN

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I speak today to say a few words about a remarkable farm leader and humanitarian, Anne Kanten.

Anne has served for 18 years on the board of directors of the Farmers Legal Action Group (F.L.A.G.), a non-profit law firm based in St. Paul, Minnesota, and dedicated to helping family farmers obtain economic and social justice. I salute Anne Kanten for her enlightened guidance to F.L.A.G. during her years as a director and her years on the board. But far more than that, I want to take this moment to acknowledge Anne Kanten's lifetime of service to others.

Anne served as Minnesota's Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and as Chief Administrator of the Minnesota Farm Advocate Program during the years of farm crisis in the 1980's. She was a founding member of the American Agriculture Movement who, with her husband Chuck and son Kent, helped plan and carry out the Washington, DC Tractorcade of 1979. In addition, Anne has been a long time spokesperson for stewardship of the land and its people through her various leadership roles in her church.

Her efforts to achieve justice for farm families continue to this day.

Anne Kanten grew up on an Iowa farm, the daughter of immigrants who came to our country in pursuit of a better life. By her own admission, she longed to escape the 1930's Depression of her rural childhood. After attending college and becoming a teacher, Anne became re-connected to the land when she married Chuck Kanten, a young farmer from Milan, Minnesota. Anne and Chuck Kanten represent the best of American Life. They raised a wonderful family on their farm home. They believe strongly in giving of themselves.

I consider myself honored and fortunate to count Anne Kanten as my friend. I ask the Senate today to join me in recognizing Anne Kanten for her years of service to the Farmers Legal Action Group and to farm families everywhere.●

DELAWARE WELL REPRESENTED AT AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute four Delaware golfers who continue to make the citizens of my State proud.

Last June, Margaret Butler, Mary Kaczorowski, Joyce Ruddick and Alice Wooldridge played in and won the