

# Patricia D. & Leonard J. Puza Memorial Endowment



The Leonard J. Puza Memorial Scholarship was established by his wife and four children in September 1999, and in January 2021, his wife Patricia passed away. Reminiscing upon their passing, it was apparent their lives and their activities had a message:

*If you truly want to make the community and the world a better place and achieve a sense of fulfillment, FOCUS ON YOUR*

*FAMILY. Take the time to support each other, and teach your children and your friends' children the difference between right and wrong. Exhibit respect to those you touch, don't be afraid to show your emotions, go above and beyond during someone's time of need, be a friend whenever possible, listen to what's being said, cooperate and take the time to think of others before you think of yourself.*

Lenny and Pat were part of a large family that encouraged the significance of a robust work ethic and family values. They were lifetime residents of Westfield and attended Westfield High School. Lenny captained the WHS football team, while Pat performed in musicals and was a member of the Glee Club. They married in 1958 and began their life together.

Lenny served his country with the 104<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard, and Pat was noted for her showmanship as she appeared in various shows in this city singing and dancing. She even had a radio program on station WBZA. Lenny established himself in the community as a successful businessman in the independent grocer industry. Pat, after raising four children, partnered with her mother and sister on the ownership of Joan's House of Color. Years later she moved on and assisted her husband in managing his business.

Their family, friends and customers were very important to them. Lenny took great pleasure in helping others whether it be assisting the Westfield High Booster Club to raise funds, or putting a smile on the face of a customer's child by giving him/her a colored Easter egg or a slice of cheese. He mowed a neighbor's lawn because she was ill, cooked for seniors at Blessed Sacrament Church and played Santa Claus for his family. For his sister's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Lenny dressed up like Elvis Presley and simulated a serenade to her because she idolized "The King." Lenny expected nothing in return, his sense of fulfillment was just to know what he did helped others. If he received a simple smile or "thank you," it was an added bonus of encouragement.



After his death in 1999, Pat continued on with Lenny's traditions of love of the customers and bringing smiles to the faces of their children with lollipops, participating with various charities and the large Patricia D. & Leonard Puza Memorial Endowment family gatherings. Vacations in Maine with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were very special to Pat.

Considering Lenny and Pat's popularity in the Westfield community and their desire to lend a "helping hand" to others, their family thought it would be appropriate for them to continue to give support to our local students. This is why we established the Patricia D. and Leonard J. Puza Memorial Endowment Scholarship. Their family has great memories and they are very proud of their parents' life together and what they stood for. We, their beloved children, hope their life's message will blossom for others.

Written by their children: Douglas Puza, Deborah Puza Elliott, Donna Puza Schnopp & Daniel Puza  
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