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Del Norte HS Alumni Association, the AlumKnights

“FRIEND OF THE CASTLE” CEREMONY NOVEMBER 9

The first annual “Friend of the Castle” award will go to long time Del Norte HS teacher Elaine Alarid, affectionately called “Senora” by thousands of former students.

Angelo Gonzales from the AlumKnights Board of Directors will present the award November 9, 6 pm at the Del Norte HS Performing Arts Center. Many things led to the honor for Alarid, but prime among them, was her planning a folklorico dance performance by dozens of her former students. That April 2016 performance raised over \$3,000 in scholarship funds for Del Norte students.

Alarid, who graduated with West Mesa HS’s first class of 1968, started teaching at DNHS in 1972 and retired from APS after 34 of teaching Spanish. To acquaint her students with cultural traditions of Mexican dance and music, Alarid began an all-volunteer lunch time dance class at DNHS in the 1990s. That led to a dance curriculum development ultimately approved by APS as an elective class which she taught from 1990-2006.

Alarid’s “Ballet Folklorico” student dancers entertained across the City and state with some special out-of-state performances. She sewed regional dance costumes and repaired other costumes donated to the ensemble.

In 2014, Del Norte celebrated the 50th anniversary of its opening in 1964. Deciding to help with the day-long celebration, Alarid used Facebook to find many former students. They rehearsed some 25 hours and performed at that June 2014 commemoration. The group decided to stay connected and be available to dance for other events to help the community. They have since performed at the KiMo theatre and performed Nov. 4-5 to raise funds for a former alumni injured in a car accident.

More information is on the website of the Del Norte HS Alumni Association, www.alumKnights.info.