

0:13

I have had the pleasure of walking in

0:18

his footsteps a little bit. It's

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just... from everybody, from all accounts

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he's an incredible educator, musician,

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mentor and leader, and his impact was not

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only felt in Albuquerque Public Schools

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but in the community at large, and that's

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the kind of leadership that is rare

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and only comes around once in a while. He

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was everywhere.

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Dale was just a person that if you

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needed him he was there, before you knew

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you needed him, he was there, and

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sometimes when you didn't need him, he

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was there. When the early 80s came, and I

1:03

came back to Albuquerque after an

1:04

absence I called him and said, "Dale, I need a

1:07

job," and he said, "Come." He trusted that

1:11

what I'd had done before was good and he

1:15

wanted me back. What a relentless

1:18

champion he was for Albuquerque Public

1:20

Schools, and he cared so much about

1:23

having the right teachers for the

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students that he recruited nationwide

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as he would travel the country doing

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clinics and guest conducting gigs he was

1:32

always looking out for teachers that

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would be great for Albuquerque. I guess I

1:35

think of Dale Kempter as my mentor in my

1:37

career. He really took me under his wing

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when I was a young executive

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director at the Albuquerque Youth

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Symphony program. I learned how to be a

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servant leader he is very much somebody

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that is always working to make other

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people better at what they do, whether

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it's play an instrument, or lead an

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organization, or be a good, better parent.

1:58

He's a great man

2:01

What an amazing person. There's another

2:03

person who dedicated his life to the

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kids at APS, through the Youth Symphony

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program, through the supervision. He

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taught at Wilson Middle School, and he

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taught at a number of other schools here in

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APS before he became a fine arts

2:16

administrator.

2:19

He never rested back and let other

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people do the work. He was always the

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hardest worker anywhere. He inspired

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everyone else to work hard, too. He worked

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tirelessly. He was always five days a

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week sometimes during the heavy concert season,

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at schools listening to the kids

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perform. You know, he would go, he'd go

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to lots of different teachers concerts

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and just be there, and if you needed

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something you know you could call Dale,

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or Dale's office, and get help, and he was,

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a real champion. When

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you ask what makes Dale Kempter a great

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leader, it's hard to put your finger on

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it because he's a servant leader for one

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thing. He's the person that's the

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hardest-working, first person, first

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person up last person go to bed, you know,

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he was working hard all the time, and the

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other thing is that he inspires people

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to work their hardest for him. I think

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maybe his greatest legacy, you know,

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beyond his reach which was in the school

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district, in the community, in the city

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and state, and then as a nationwide

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leader...his love of music, his love of

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education, and his passion for what he

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did every day, and that not only inspired

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others, but it was infectious, and others

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have picked up on it, and, they're fun

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jobs, they're difficult jobs, but Dale

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helped define how important they are, and

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that helps the teacher in the classroom

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every single day to think of that

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long-term goal.