

#8 - Introduction of Mike Doyle by Claudia Lennhoff

Now I would like to ask Mike Doyle, and Ron and Frank Peters to join me on stage for this next award.

Tonight, we are dedicating a new award in honor of Lilia Peters, who was a devoted Health Care Consumers volunteer, supporter, and Board Member, and who made our community better.

Lilia Peters passed away last December at the age of 79. She and Ron had been married for over 51 years, and they were incredible partners in raising their family and in serving the communities to which they belonged.

Anyone who was fortunate enough to know Lilia, knows that she was a true and loving friend, and she changed people's lives for the better. She was a small lady, but she was very mighty!

It is our great privilege to be able to dedicate an award tonight in her name, to help honor her lasting impact on our community on an ongoing basis, and to recognize the work of other community members who exemplify Lilia's legacy of caring for others.

Mike Doyle will present the dedication of the Lilia E. Peters Service to New Immigrants and the International Community Award.

I will introduce Mike now, but I will keep it short because Mike really doesn't like being in the spotlight.

Mike is the founder and former Executive Director of our organization, which he started 41 years ago in 1977 because he saw a need in our community for an organization that would give voice to us, the consumers and patients, and that would prioritize the needs of the people.

Mike, along with his wife Loretta Morales, and the work of Health Care Consumers attracted many amazing people to the organization and their work changed the course of health care in our community for the better. Just to name a few examples, we have midwife services in Champaign County, and prenatal care programs for low-income women, the Medicare 100 Plus Program, and school breakfast programs in the County, among many other services because of Mike Doyle, and the people who came to work as volunteers, staff or Board Members with Health Care Consumers. Believe it or not, establishing every single one of these services and programs was a struggle that had to be won.

Mike currently works as the Executive Director of the University YMCA, which has been in the forefront of creating programs and organizations to serve the needs of immigrants in our community, including Immigration Forum and the New American Welcome Center, among others.

When I joined the organization, the Board of Directors that I got to work with included Mike Doyle and Lilia Peters. Even once they left the Board of Directors, both Mike and Lilia have remained part of the Health Care Consumers family, and have continued to serve this community in very important ways, for which I'm deeply grateful.

Now, I will ask Mike to present the dedication of the Lilia Peters Award.