

A Tribute To Linda

Letter to the Editor, November 2000, South Sioux City Star

Linda Modlin probably never came to grips with the notion that even human beings, in spite of the fact they might operate a powerful, wealthy corporation, could lose their humanity. It was a foreign concept that they could fail to recognize or take responsibility for the hazardous emissions released from their plant, when it became clear these emissions affected the health of people in neighboring homes, their employees, employee families and the surrounding communities of Dakota City and South Sioux City.

Linda dedicated the last 10 years of her life, selflessly, in an effort to convince the community they did not have to live with this problem, they must take action; to convince state and federal regulators that there was an environmental problem in the state of Nebraska, and it was serious; to convince the Nebraska Unicameral that they had lost sight of the welfare of the people of Nebraska in their enthusiasm for industrial growth; to convince the health-care professionals that there was more they needed to know about the toxic effects of hydrogen sulfide.

Today, we must come to grips with the loss of this amazing lady. Spirited by her dedication and love for her family and community, and in spite of tremendous adversity, Linda Modlin's efforts will make a difference in the lives of people throughout America.

For each of us who has had the privilege of knowing Linda, we have been touched by a soul that will change us forever.

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