



# ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson Monthly Newsletter

May, 2017

## Basketball Scoreboards Donated to PJHS “In Memory of Lucien Armato”

Thanks to the support of the taxpayers of Special Maintenance District #5, the careful planning and budgeting of school board officials and one special donor, students of Patterson Junior High School will soon walk into a brand new state-of-the-art school facility with all of the amenities they could ever imagine; even down to the scoreboards used for basketball and volleyball games. That special donor is Mrs. Leona Armato, wife of the late Lucien J. Armato. The money was donated to purchase two scoreboards for a total cost of \$12,080. ***“I am extremely proud of the donation of the two scoreboards by Mrs. Armato. The wonderful community support and dedication from the Armatos is a testament to the tradition of Patterson schools,”*** stated Mark Spradling, acting principal of Patterson Jr. High School.

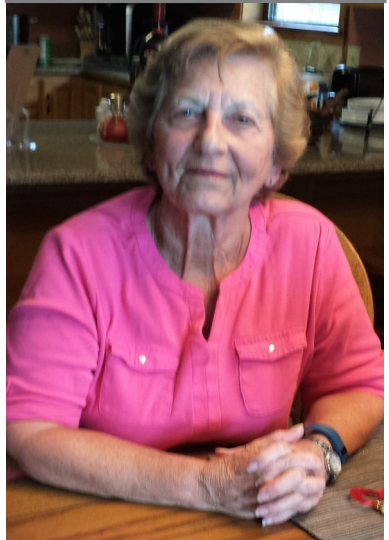
The two scoreboards will replace the one scoreboard presently residing in the existing gym, and were not included in the 18M dollar budget to fund the school project. Having two scoreboards will allow two games to be conducted simultaneously for basketball and volleyball. The current scoreboard is in working condition and will remain in the gym as the property of the City of Patterson when they take possession of the existing facility per property transfer agreements with the St. Mary Parish School Board.

When Mrs. Armato became aware of the need to find a donor for the scoreboards, she immediately stepped up. ***“I have wanted to do something in my husband’s name for a long time; and this was perfect,”*** she said. She went on to say that donating the scoreboards in her husband’s memory was the perfect way to honor him because of his love of sports and how involved he was in the community; especially sporting activities for the youth. She stated that she’s giving back to the community because, ***“He would have loved to do this. ‘Who can I help today,’ was his philosophy of life.”***

Lucien Joseph Armato, born April 25, 1932, was a loving husband and father of three sons: Leonard (wife, Patty) of Patterson; Carl (wife, Christi) of North Carolina; and John (wife, Nichol) also of Patterson, LA. He was married to Leona Lipari Armato for ***“34 good years,”*** Mrs. Armato said proudly. Mr. Armato was a devoted family man, liked to cook and did the grocery shopping for the household. He was Vice-president of Patterson State Bank for many years. After work, he devoted his time to the youth of the community and served as Recreation Director for the City of Patterson. He also coached youth sports, loved base ball and coached all three of his sons.

The new scoreboards are made by Spectrum with LED advanced light technology. Mrs. Armato’s donation of \$12,080 will provide the scoreboards along with the related radio control systems and signage. Delivery, installation and final hookup in the amount of \$3,612 will be provided by School Board District II maintenance funds, according to School Board Chief Financial Officer, Alton Perry.

Mrs. Leona Armato



Lucien Joseph Armato  
04-25-32 TO 01-04-96



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## Blue Star Memorial Markers Refurbished by Patterson Garden Club



**Refurbished By-Way Marker**



**Highway Marker AFTER**



**Highway Marker BEFORE**

The Patterson Garden Club decided to give Patterson's Memorial Markers a facelift and recently had the two Blue Star Memorial Markers refurbished. The original highway marker (middle and far right photo) was dedicated by the PGC and the City of Patterson in 1999 at Patterson's entrance on Highway 90. The smaller by-way marker (left photo) was dedicated in 2004 and is located in the front lawn of Patterson City Hall on Main Street.

Both signs were refurbished by Tom Stelling of Historical Marker Restorations of Daytona Beach, Florida for a total cost of \$1000. The large memorial marker was refurbished at a cost of \$750 and the small marker for a cost of \$250. Restoration costs were paid for through fundraiser efforts of PGC members.

Blue Star Memorial Marker Programs are sponsored by the National Council of State Garden Clubs as a tribute to the Armed Forces of America. The original Blue Star Memorial program began in 1944 in New Jersey by the Council of Garden Clubs as a highway beautification program where they planted approximately 8,000 Dogwood trees as a living memorial to pay tribute to their veterans of World War II. The Blue Star was taken from the blue star in the service flag during World War II and chosen to symbolize the memorial. In 1945 the program was expanded by the National Council of State Garden Clubs to include memorial markers on highways and by-ways in honor of all of America's service men and women.

In November of each year, the Patterson Garden Club and The City of Patterson sponsor a Blue Star Memorial Program. Programs have been held at the Highway, City Hall, or at the Patterson Jr. High School. A wreath is placed on both markers at that time.

## Registration Begins for Patterson Summer Recreation Program



Patterson Community Center, located at 204 Park Street, Patterson, Louisiana, announces the opening of its Annual Summer Recreation Program. Registration will begin on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 9 am until 4 pm until Friday, June 9, 2017 from 9 am until 4 pm. The cost is \$50 per child for ages 6-16.

The summer program will begin on Monday, June 12, 2017 and conclude on Friday, July 21, 2017. Free-tutoring, feeding (breakfast, lunch and snacks), arts & crafts, mentoring and sports will be provided. Contact Directors, Sylvia Fields or Carrie Johnson at 985-395-4422 for more information.