



2015 Lindsay Orange Blossom Festival
Honored Person
Mrs. LaWanda Wollenman

When you think of Lindsay you think of oranges groves, back drop of the Sierra-Nevada Mountains, packing houses, devoted citizens. This year's Honored Person fits all those ideas of what makes Lindsay such a wonderful place to grow up.

Wanda, as most people know her, has devoted endless hours in Lindsay to make it a better place to live. She has embraced its ethnic culture and diversity that makes up the scenery of our community.

As a young girl she has many fond memories growing up on her family's orange grove just west of Lindsay with her parents and 2 younger brothers.

After graduating from Lindsay High School, Wanda joined the Cadet Nurse's Corp and graduated with her RN degree in 1947. She married Joe Wollenman, an orange grower from Lindsay. Together they raised their four children, Michael, Shawnee, Guy, and Jody among their oranges groves not far from where Wanda grew up.

As their children grew, Wanda began working at the Well Baby Clinic and organized the Candy Strippers Program for high school students. While volunteering at Lindsay Hospital, Wanda went on to complete her bachelor's degree in Health Science and became an instructor for the LVN and Psych Tech classes at Porterville College.

Always wanting to help the youth of their community, she and Joe co-founded the Wolverton Ski Bus, busing children to ski slopes and teaching them to ski. They have been and still are devoted Lindsay High School Booster supporters.

In 1988, Wanda retired from teaching and ran for her first elected position on the Lindsay District Hospital Board. It was a time when the Lindsay District Hospital was one of the top rural hospitals in the state. She along with the Board, through their due diligence, kept the tax-based funds from the hospital in Lindsay after it was demolished in 2000. It wasn't until 2006 that they saw their dream of a Wellness Center for the citizens of Lindsay become a reality. Lindsay now boasts an Olympic aquatic center, PRO-PT Therapy, free health clinics, Foundation Lab and a certified message therapist.

Wanda is also known for her great talent with the palette and paint brush. She is a renowned pastel artist and has shown her painting in many galleries in the valley. Creating beautifully designed stone jewelry is another of her many talents that she shares with family and friends.

Wanda is proud of Lindsay and its diversified cultures. Being a grandmother to eight and great grandmother of two, she feels fortunate that her family grew up in Lindsay and that they were able to share the many opportunities that she had as a child.

She knows her late husband Joe would be very proud. She stated, "He was a wonderful man and together they did what they wanted to do for as long as they wanted to."

Wanda is honored to be a part of the 83rd Lindsay Orange Blossom Festival's history and invites everyone to come out to the festival on Saturday, April 25th to enjoy the festivities!