

When I learned at the Annual Athletic Awards Banquet this spring that the volleyball court was going to be dedicated to Lisa I was extremely humbled. When I conveyed the news to our family and friends they reacted the same way. It is humbling for us to be standing here right now. A lot has transpired this year, life has definitely changed but what remains the same is how special both Ralston Valley High School and the Arvada Community really are.

There is no disputing the tradition that has been established here over the past thirteen school years. It is a tradition that is rich. So many accomplishments have been attained in the classroom and in athletics. So many amazing people have contributed to that tradition. That is why we are so humbled to have a school like Ralston Valley memorialize Lisa by dedicating the volleyball court in her name. This tribute is so special it is difficult to find the words to describe all of our emotions. It is a tremendous feeling to know that when student athletes take the court here at RV, they will be competing on "Lisa Nelson Court". Imagine what they will be asking in five or ten years from now, "Who was Lisa Nelson?" and the remaining old folks here like Coach Davies, Coach Conrad and Coach Lloyd will be able to tell Lisa's story again and again. They will probably say something like this: ***"she was a teacher and a coach here at Ralston Valley for the first thirteen years of the schools existence and she left such mark that this court was dedicated to her after she passed away. She stood for academics, athletics and above all good character. She was someone who loved Ralston Valley its students, athletes, faculty and administrative staff. She had a huge heart and a work ethic to match. She taught us so many things and she will never be forgotten"***. I ask everyone here tonight that was touched in some way shape or form by Lisa's life to "pay it forward" living as she did by being passionate about what you do and by being caring and loving to others.

I want to thank the school district, Jim Hynes, Jim Ellis, Coach Erickson and her staff, the athletes standing on this floor, all of you in the stands and family and friends standing behind me now. Thank you all!!! Lisa would be blown away by the amount of love and support in this gym. We are humbled, honored and thankful by what has transpired here tonight. God bless you all, now lets play some volleyball!!! Go Mustangs!!!!