

Richard Arnold (Class of 1959)

Artist/Veteran/Friendship

Sculptor Richard Arnold has lived a life of many dogged pursuits, not the least of which is his current avocation as an accomplished sculptor – led by his sculpture of the Pointer Dog that has adorned the campus since 2010.

Before Richard brought the proud pup to three-dimensional life, it had been regarded strictly as two-dimensional over the previous 85 years. Funded in part by the PLHS Alumni Association, “Pointer” reflects our school’s deep sense of pride and purpose.

A longtime resident of Colorado, Richard grew up in San Diego and graduated from PLHS in 1959. He attended the University of Hawaii, but didn’t graduate, which he attributes to “too many girls.” He went on to spend his early adult years as a diver at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Since then, the Vietnam War veteran has variously been a skiing instructor, charter-air company founder, manager of two airports, and the owner of a successful residential home construction business in Carbondale, a small mountain town not far from Aspen.

Through most of his early career, Richard's artistic talents were a passionate, yet understated aspect of his life. That is, until age 50 when his wife urged him to devote more of his creativity to sculpture.

At age 81, and still an adventurer skier who has sailed and surfed in Costa Rica, his nationally-recognized artwork continues to be his calling, most notably by his bronzed tributes displayed around the country to honor Vietnam War veterans.

“Working in clay and wax, then having my art cast in bronze, I attempt to capture the spirit and personality of the subject,” he says. “My sculptures are sensitive, personal and from the heart.”