2016 Sue Palmore Award of Excellence Award Recipient

In November 2012, long time District 200 board member Carolyn 'Sue' Palmore passed away after a four-year battle against pancreatic cancer. Sue was well-known in the community for her commitment to helping District 200 through dedicated service to helping the students and residents of Woodstock. Sue also served as the D200 liaison to the Education Foundation.

The District 200 Education Foundation wanted to find a way to honor Sue's memory. The foundation board decided to rename the Foundation's Award of Excellence in her memory. The award, now called the Sue Palmore Award of Excellence, is awarded each year to a recipient who has shown exemplary service to the students and staff of District 200.

The District 200 Education Foundation is proud to announce the recipient of the Sue Palmore Award of Excellence for 2016 will be long-time resident and educational volunteer Joy Aavang.

Michelle Martin, assistant principal of Creekside Middle School, nominated Aavang for the award. Aavang is well known for her volunteer work at both Northwood and Creekside Middle Schools. In her nomination application Martin pointed out that Aavang "has been an active contributor to the NWMS Veterans' Day Assembly" for many years. "She does classroom presentations and has provided a host veterans as guest speakers."

Her work at Northwood has earned Aavang the Northwood Patriot Award and was recognition by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Aavang annually participates during the "D200 Love to Read Week" and as a judge of the Creekside and Northwood Projects. She also helps out the sixth grade teachers by working on the grandparent project and is often a "stand-in grandparent" for a student who does not have a grandparent to interview.

Many McHenry county residents know Aavang through her books, especially the Fly the Flag for Me series that documents the personal histories of veterans from different wars as well as civilians who lived through the wars.