

WILBUR BARNES

SCHOLARSHIP



Mr. Barnes was born in rural Miami County near Paola, Kansas. He and his family moved to Ottawa, Kansas in 1941. He graduated in 1951 from Ottawa High School, where he was active in athletics and other school activities. He gained All-League and state honors in both football and basketball and received medals at the state track meet.

He attended Ottawa University, where he was the quarterback on the football team and guard on the basketball team. His college days were interrupted by the Korean War. He was in the airborne division of the Army, serving as a paratrooper.

After getting out of the Army, he returned to Ottawa University. Mr. Barnes made the All-Conference team 2 years in basketball and in his senior year he was the co-captain on a team that did not lose a game in conference play.

Mr. Barnes received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology and secondary education from Ottawa University in 1958. He received an Master's degree in school administration and physical education from Pittsburg State University in 1962.

Mr. Barnes taught and coached at Belton, Missouri and Pleasanton and Lansing, Kansas. His teaching/coaching/administration career extended for a period of 36 years, with the last 29 years at Lansing High School. He came to Lansing High School in 1965 as a science teacher, football and track coach, athletic director and assistant principal. He was assigned the principal position in 1969 in which he remained for 25 years, until his retirement in 1994.

Mr. Barnes and his wife, Laura, met while attending college in Ottawa and were married in 1953. Laura was a teacher at the Lansing Elementary School for 25 years. She retired in 1995. They have 5 children and all are graduates of Lansing High School. Vince graduated in 1972, Vanessa in '73, Vicky in '75, Velora in '77, and Vonna in '78. Three sons-in-law also graduated from Lansing High, Daniel Wheeler in '71, Ronald Haddock in '74, and Stephen Riese '77.

Since retirement Mr. Barnes served on the Lansing Unified School District #469 Board of Education, including one year as President of the Board.

- 1. Applicant must be in the top 10% of graduating class.**
- 2. A completed application, an essay of 250 words or less and TWO teacher evaluations with counselor section is required.**

****The scholarship winner the previous year will be eligible to receive the scholarship again, provided they maintained a 2.5 grade average and reapply for it by the 2nd Monday in March.**

