

Donald McQuillan

Memorial Scholarship



Don lived in Lansing throughout his grade school and high school years. He graduated from Lansing High School in 1950.

The sports at Lansing High School were hard pitch softball in the fall, basketball in the winter, and track in the spring. A versatile athlete, Don was the softball pitcher, did shot put and high jump, and ran the 220 in track. Don's high school years were especially marked by his outstanding athletic ability in basketball. He excelled and held school records for points scored in a season. He was named in the 'Top 5' at the state basketball tournament in 1950. Don is currently the only Lansing High School graduate to receive a full ride scholarship to a 'Big 8' school in basketball. He was a 6' center on the 1949 and 1950 teams that won 54 games and lost only 2. His former coach, Earl Johnsmeyer, noted that the two losses were in double overtime at the state tournament in 1949, and in the finals at state in 1950.

After attending Kansas State University for a year where he started on the freshman basketball team, he entered the U.S. Navy (Korean War) and served for four years. Don was voted the 'Most Valuable Player' in the Armed Forces Tournament held in Tokyo, Japan in 1953. After his naval service he returned to Kansas State University.

He entered the U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Prisons service in 1956. He was on the opening team to activate the institution at Lompoc, California. He retired from the Bureau with more than 26 years of service as a Senior Lieutenant/Corrections.

From February 1983 until he became ill in August 1997, he enjoyed raising a few cattle and maintaining the farm. He and his wife derived a great deal of satisfaction from this activity. Don lost his battle with leukemia on July 19, 1998.

He and his wife, Virginia, were married in 1957. They had four children- Julia Ann, Kelley, Kyle, and Mark. Knowing the value of higher education, all are college graduates, one has a Master's degree and one is working on a Master's degree.

- 1. Applicant should have participated in at least one sport during high school.**
- 2. A completed application, an essay of 250 words or less and TWO teacher evaluations with counselor section is required.**