Fund Spotlight - Centennial Memorial Park Fund - Historic Site in Anniston, AL

Alabama Heroes Honored

Setting aside space for special purposes has been almost a sacred rule of human history. When cities are founded, we allocate land to be used for government, education and worship. We reserve land to bury and honor the dead and we define space for gardens and parks. In Anniston, Alabama’s Model City, a space has been set aside to list the names of more than 10,000 Alabamians who died in service to our country.

In 1999, the Alabama State Legislature designated Centennial Memorial Park as the Veteran’s Memorial for the State of Alabama. The names of every Alabamian who was killed during World War I, II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf are engraved in the Zimbabwe black granite walls. Centrally located is the Alabama-shaped reflecting pool. In front of the pool is the wall honoring the Vietnam veterans. The arched shaped walls facing the pool are engraved with men and women killed in World War I and World War II. The Korean Conflict’s veteran’s names are located on the other side of the Vietnam War Memorial. The Alabama State Legislature passed a resolution for the park to be the official Alabama memorial park for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. In addition a resolution was passed to honor Alabama firefighters and law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The law enforcement wall bears the name of any officer killed in the line of duty throughout the state of Alabama and is added to the wall within 72 hours of their death. This section of the park was officially unveiled on May 13, 2016.

The park holds many memories for families and friends. Many of those who visit the wall do rubbings of names which hold a special meaning for them. Ceremonies are held each year on Memorial Day, Veteran’s Day, and Law Enforcement Day to honor the dedication of those whose names are now on the wall.

Rep. Randy Wood, introduced legislation that designated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Law Enforcement Memorial tags go to the Centennial Memorial Fund for the establishment and maintenance of the Law Enforcement Memorial, which was passed by the legislature. In addition, park committee

Who am I, this name on the Wall?
I’m just a person, who answered his nation’s call.
from a land in the south,
where as a boy I would play,
To the jungles of Asia,
a land far away.

So, who am I this name on the Wall?
A person proud to do his part,
be it big or small.
I served in the jungles and rivers,
and sometimes I touch a cloud.
My Wish was to come home safe,
and make my country proud.

And who am I, this name on the Wall?
Someone who left families waiting,
avoid of that fatal call.
I was a Son, I was a Brother,
a Husband and a Dad.
Someone when his name is mention,
evokes the worst kind of sad.

So lift your eyes up to Heaven,
where everything is well.
You know that I’m in Heaven,
where everything is well.
You know that I’m in Heaven,
I served my time in Hell.
Keep Ole Glory flying,
and never let her fall.
I’m Life, Love and Liberty.
But I’m not just a name on the Wall.

Ken Rollins, March 7, 1994

Fund Spotlight continued on page 4
The Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama recognized 10 area high school graduates with college scholarships. The scholarships were presented at a reception held at the Anniston Country Club in Anniston. The event honored the students, their families and donors for their generosity in the creation of the various scholarship funds. In addition, 13 scholarships were renewed for students currently enrolled in college.

The 2016 awards totaled $49,100 and represented 23 individual scholarships. Hon. Brenda S. Stedham, CFNEA Trustee and Scholarship Committee Chair, presented the awards. “The Foundation is proud to make these awards,” said Stedham, “Each student is very deserving and we look forward to hearing about the many great things they accomplish in the future.”

More than $32,000 in scholarships from the Piedmont Education Trust (PET) were awarded to 2016 Piedmont High School seniors on May 16th during Awards Day. PET was formed in 1992 by alumni of the school system to build financial support for future students. In addition, each year PET presents grants to the teachers for much needed supplies. Gifts are made throughout the year in memory or in honor of individuals. PET is a fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. Listed below are this year’s fund names and recipients.

“Walter Thompson” – Chloe Barnes
“The VanSant Family” – Alle Colvert
“Leola Roberts” – Kendall Pressley
“Dr. W.H. Kimbrough” – Bayley Blanchard
“McAbee/Salmon” – Adrienne Garmon
“Vera and Morgan Stewart”
  Advanced/Honors – Brett Akin
  Advanced – Madison Pike
  Education Major - Kathryn Lusk
  Citizenship – Sarah Lawrence
“Lewis, Monteel and Jerry Savage” – Madeline Winstead
“Weldon “Pinkie” Roberts” – Kayla Brown
“Ryan Davis” – Seth Pope
“Dr. J.R. Kirkpatrick” – Mackenzie Hightower
“Frank Watson” – Samantha McGatha
“Granger and Peggy Latta” – Wil Mitchell

“Larry and Jane Gowyens” – Jacob Goss
“The Health Scholarship” – Bry Smith
“The Health Scholarship” – Cheyenne McPeek
“Class of 68” – Colton Donaldson
“Class of 68” – Samantha McGatha
“William Theodore Law” – Karri Green
“Florence Bates Law” – Madeline Winstead
“Meagan McCain” – Lexi Daugherty
“Meagan McCain” – Keshaua Jones
“Meagan McCain” – Kathryn Lusk
“Meagan McCain” – Kinsey Martin
“Shane Donaldson” – Nina Gouger
“Ophelia and John Rankin” – Karri Green
“Rob Spivey” – Kayla Brown
“Randy and Cynthia Harper” – Bry Smith
“Christian Cantrell” – Karri Green

Your tax deductible donation may be sent to Piedmont Education Trust, P.O. Box 819, Piedmont, Alabama 36272.
Bill Hereford loves to fly so when he was told his new fund agreement was ready for signature he hopped in his plan and flew right over! Bill says any excuse to fly will do. Bill created the St. Clair County Endowment Fund to provide support for not-for-profit organizations and charitable activities in St. Clair County.

E.D. King Family Fund – Awarded $1,000
Etowah Free Community Clinic

Standards For Excellence® Grants – $32,815
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama
Independent Reading/Counseling Services, Inc.
Interfaith Ministries
Piedmont Benevolence Center
Public Education Foundation of Anniston, Inc.
Saving Animals Volunteer Efforts
West Anniston Foundation

Stringfellow Grants – $251,931
Alabama Childhood Food Solutions, Inc.
Calhoun County Commission
Community Enabler Developer, Inc.
Etowah Free Community Clinic
Extended Family
Family Links, Inc.
Independent Reading/Counseling Services, Inc.
Jacksonville State University
JSU Foundation
The Learning Tree, Inc.
Piedmont Historical Society
Red Door Kitchen
The Salvation Army
Sight Savers America
Southeastern Diabetes Education Services
YMCA of Calhoun County

Good Choices Fund Success Story
“Thank you for the opportunity to share my gratitude toward Mr. Folks and the Community Foundation as they each contributed to my success during my collegiate years. They provided me with the scholarship funds to help contribute toward the financial costs that were required to obtain my nursing degree. These funds were helpful in lifting a financial burden from my parents and me. After years of receiving scholarships from the Community Foundation, I am now a successful Registered Nurse and travel across the United States. Again, I thank God, Mr. Steven Folks, and the Community Foundation for their contributions toward my career.”

Respectfully,
Kimberly N. Houzah, RN, BSN

A Fond Farewell
Friends, colleagues, trustees and staff gathered for a reception in the Foundation office to bid a fond farewell to Eula Tatman, Vice President of Programs. Eula decided to spend more time with her four granddaughters in Louisiana and her husband. Since joining the Foundation in 2001, Eula has been responsible for administering millions in grants to deserving not-for-profit organizations and scholarships. She is truly an expert in grantmaking, and grant writing. We will all miss working with her.
Breaking Records.

Breaking Barriers!

Congratualtions Anniston High School Track Team!

Equipped with the skills and determination to set records and win, the Anniston High School (AHS) Track Team’s practice track just needed some TLC. A grant from the Stringfellow Health Fund provided just that. In addition, a host of volunteers rolled up their sleeves and contributed their time and hard work. This group effort truly paid off for the AHS Track Team. One of the students broke a 20-year record in long jump. Jennifer S. Maddox, President & CEO for the Community Foundation says, “The students already had the drive, determination and talent. The grant just provided them the perfect space to hone their skills.”

“In 2002, we partnered with the Community Foundation to create a fund to build the park into what it is today. The committee created this charitable fund to secure the donations needed to grow and support the park into the future. We are honored to be selected as the site to honor our fallen heroes. The Foundation has the resources and expertise to work with donors who wish to make a current or planned gift to this fund and we look forward to working with them once again.”

– Ken Rollins, Vice Chairman of the Centennial Memorial Park Committee

Governor Robert Bentley has signed legislation designating Centennial Memorial as the “Official” site of the Law Enforcement and Firefighter Memorials dedicated to those killed in the line of duty. The legislation also designates the park as Alabama’s “Official” location for Iraq and Afghanistan memorials.