

Donor Stories

R.L. & Lois Kilgore

"R.L. and Lois Kilgore Fund"



R.L. & Lois Kilgore

Lois Kilgore created the R.L. and Lois Kilgore Fund within the Community Foundation to benefit Covenant Medical Center Foundation, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Junior Achievement of Black Hawk Land, Inc., Waterloo/Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra, Black Hawk Human Society, Exceptional Persons, Inc., Grout Museum of History & Science, Boys and Girls Club of Waterloo, Inc. and Fairview Cemetery Association. When establishing the Fund, Lois shared, "I do this in memory of Larry whom I still miss so very much. I would like him to be remembered for the many organizations he supported during his lifetime. Through this Fund, those organizations will be receiving an annual gift in our names in perpetuity...and in so doing our children will be pleased to have had their father and their mother so honored."

Robert Lawrence Kilgore was born in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1907, the youngest of four boys: Jim, Joe, Herb and Larry. Larry was always industrious and at the age of eleven, he began caddying at Sunnyside Country Club. Over the years he developed a love for golf, at one time thinking he might want to be a professional golfer. His job as caddy also provided him the opportunity to meet many prominent businessmen in the city. After graduation from East High in 1925, Larry began work for the Commercial Bank. In 1933, Larry moved up the ladder with the National Bank, serving as its president for thirteen years. He retired from the National Bank in 1976.

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While an employee of the bank, he was called to serve in World War II. Stationed in Denver, Colorado, at Buckley Field, he was assigned to payroll for airmen returning from the war zone.

Larry was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Waterloo, officially becoming a member of the church on September 22, 1907. Aside from serving as a Trustee and Deacon of the church, he supported many other non-profit agencies in the community

by giving of his time and financial support. He was a member of the original Board of Hawkeye Institute of Technology. A few agencies he supported were: Boys & Girls Club, Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, Junior Achievement, Waterloo School Board, Elks Club. He was recognized for his achievements by being named to the East High Hall of Fame.

Larry met Lois Tisdale when he was 21 years old. He was part of his church basketball team playing in the East High School gym, where Lois, then 17 years old, had come to watch the game. They knew each other for six years before they married on September 8, 1934. "Larry was very conscientious about his plans," said Lois "because of the depression, he needed to be sure he could provide for the future."

Over the years, we had many enjoyable times together,” she added. “During the 70s, we were fortunate to have visited Ireland and other European countries several times.”

Lois was busy as well, working as a young woman at Black’s and Grant’s Department stores. She did volunteer work for political parties by helping at the polls. In addition, Lois volunteered at the Red Cross, Salvation Army and United Way. After their daughters were born, Lynn in 1940 and Janis in 1945, Lois remained active in the community. Her volunteer work focused on activities in which her daughters were involved. She served as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader was a willing driver for school activities.

Lois fondly displayed pictures and symbols of recognition that Larry received. One of these, a certificate he received from President Ronald Reagan, honoring him for his service to his country as a member of the armed services. Another, the Cross of Promise, is a beautifully designed structure hanging in the narthex of the First Presbyterian Church as a memorial. Many pictures of their daughters and grandchildren, Alissa and Blythe were prominently displayed as well.

Lois Kilgore passed away April 19, 2008. It was with great pride and compassion that Lois and Larry chose to forever be remembered through their gifts to the community.

Robert Lawrence Kilgore (R.L./ Larry)

b 15 May, 1907

d 27 May, 1982

Lois Tisdale Kilgore

b 28 Oct., 1910

d 19 April, 2008

**Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.