

Alan & Margaret Dodge Family Scholarship

Founded in 2010

The new Alan & Margaret Dodge Family Scholarship was created to honor Alan's memory and to help a Mason City High School graduate who has shown strength of character, scholastic merit and financial need.

Alan Dodge, a long-time Mason City State Farm Insurance Agent, died in 2009, and Margaret said she wanted his memory to live on through the scholarship. Margaret described Alan as a very hard worker and a strong supporter of the Mason City community. "Alan cared deeply about North Iowa and about his clients - he was named a top agent in sales for the region for all of his 43 years in the insurance business," she said. The couple, married for 48 years, had six children, 18 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren, with two more due this year. Alan, Margaret, and their six children all graduated from Mason City High School, and Margaret said they valued education as a family. All of the Dodge's grandchildren have attended college and several have master's degrees.

Alan's career started with farming in North Iowa and he moved into the insurance business with the purchase of a small agency in Osage in 1955. A few years after that, he moved to Mason City and started a State Farm agency which operated for 30 years out of the Dodge building, which is now the site of The Music Man Square. Alan retired in December 1998.

Alan enjoyed keeping busy, and Margaret helped with bookkeeping in several of his businesses. After retirement, Alan stayed busy as an active volunteer at Trinity Lutheran Church and with the Exchange Club. He and Margaret also owned a number of rental properties in Mason City which he continued to manage after retirement from State Farm. In 2008, Alan and his daughter, Julie Birdsall, were honorary co-chairs for the Relay for Life in Mason City.

The Alan & Margaret Dodge Family Scholarship will be awarded annually to assist a deserving MCHS student with college expenses.