

Stephen and Carla
Pine
Endowment



The Devils Lake region holds many fond memories for Steve (Stephen) Pine. He and five siblings enjoyed a wholesome childhood in the rural, farming community their parents adopted after leaving East coast New England. Firmly rooted in the Catholic faith, the family took full advantage of the parochial school system. Steve attended Catholic school for ten years, completing his final two years in the Devils Lake Public School system. Steve's parents, Dr. Louis and Anita Pine, encouraged their children to continue their education, and Steve enrolled at the University of North Dakota in 1970, immediately after high school.

During his first year of college, Steve accompanied a high school buddy whose draft number was very low, on a visit to the military recruiter's office. "*Hey, you fish ... Get in here!*" was the call from the Marine recruiter, who happened to be the only recruiter on duty when they arrived. A short time later, the two friends left the office with a clear plan for their next six

months: They were going to boot camp together, and the promise of the GI Bill covering their school expenses after their two-year commitments to the Marines was fulfilled.

In 1976, after putting the GI Bill to good use, Steve graduated from UND with a degree in banking and finance. He accepted employment as a national bank examiner based in Casper, Wyoming. The region was in the midst of an oil industry boom, and Steve was encouraged to get involved. In 1980, he took a job with Gulf Oil where he learned skills required to work as an “in-house landman.”

In 1984, Gulf Oil withdrew from the region, but Steve wanted to continue his work. He moved to Williston, North Dakota, and launched his own business providing professional land services. The work involved researching court records, leasing owners’ mineral rights, curing title defects, and negotiating surface damages. Steve’s company was incorporated as Great Northern Energy, but the name was changed to Pine Petroleum, Inc. when he sold the land services portion of his company. Currently, the various Pine Companies are headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota, and remain involved in the oil industry as well as real estate development and the restaurant industry.

Along his life journey, Steve has focused on family as well as work. His daughter, Kaia, her husband, Lt. Col. Thomas Lee, and their two children settled in Bozeman, Montana, in summer 2018 after he retired from his Air Force

career. Steve’s son, Louis, also a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, is currently stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Kansas. Louis and his wife, Lauren, are parents to two young children. Steve and his wife, Carla, spend as much time as they can with family. Downhill skiing at Big Sky in Montana is one of their favorite family outings.

Like his parents, Steve, believes that reinvesting in community is a good thing to do. Steve’s father, Dr. Louis Pine, was an advocate for educational opportunities for students in the Devils Lake region. Dr. Pine served on the board of directors for the Community College Foundation which supports Lake Region State College and played an effective role in its fundraising efforts. When his beloved wife, Anita, died, Dr. Pine established a scholarship endowment in her honor. For many years, Steve strengthened that endowment with additional gifts to honor the legacy of both of his parents.

Recently, Steve and Carla established a new endowment to provide support for the nurse education program at LRSC. The college is especially grateful to the Pines for this special gift. It represents a new way to invest in and strengthen education opportunities for aspiring nurse professionals in the Lake Region. Funds produced by the Stephen and Carla Pine Endowment will be used by nurse educators to purchase teaching resources, tools, and technologies needed to continue providing state-of-the-art learning opportunities for students. ●