



H. K. Wakeford

Scholarship Endowment

Est. 2005

“Appreciate the finer things in life”

H.K. (Kent) Wakeford (1947-2016) understands the value of a hard day at work and the value of an education. Kent attended his first endowment banquet in 1995. After that, his mind was set to establish an endowment one day. Kent was impressed with how benefactors and students met each other. The meeting was important; students are able to meet the benefactors who help further their education, and benefactors get to meet the students they are helping. Two thousand and five marked the first year of the H. K. Wakeford Scholarship Endowment.

Kent joined the military soon after graduating from Osnabrock High School in 1965. After enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966, Kent began his memorable and rewarding career as one of “The few ... the proud ... the Marines.” Kent served four years, with two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Soon after his military service, Kent worked in several construction-related jobs. His work in construction laid the foundation for a long wood-working hobby that was partly a career. In the late 1970s, Kent taught himself the basics of building cabinets and other wood products that would decorate his family’s homes. Kent built two homes nearly all by himself, one in North Dakota and one in Colorado. Kent furnished both of these homes with much of the cabinetry and other wood products.

After many years of working with his hands, Kent knew that this children must have a better life. A college education would help them find careers to help them lead better lives, using their heads, not their hands. Both of Kent’s children, Andy and Sara, are graduates of Lake Region State College.

Kent’s scholarship was established to benefit a student meeting one of three criteria: military service, roots in Cavalier County, or financial need.

“Education isn’t the only thing in life,” Kent says. *“You need to appreciate the finer things in life.”* There are many beautiful things in life, including family, friends, and the fragrance of a rose. Kent has learned later in life to enjoy it and *“Stop and smell the roses.”* ✦