



Donor Profile: The Holman Family Molalla High School Alumni Scholarship Fund

The Honorable Ralph Holman, retired Supreme Court Justice for Oregon, established a fund at The Oregon Community Foundation to provide scholarships to graduates of Molalla High School, his alma mater. The fund awarded its first scholarship to Katherine Bauer, for the 2006-2007 academic year.

He started life in the small, rural community of Meadowbrook, three miles northeast of Molalla, Oregon, and graduated from Molalla High School in 1932. There was no money for college, but he was able to attend what was then an unaccredited night law school in Portland, now the Northwestern Law School at Lewis & Clark College. He began practicing law in 1937, but interrupted his career to enlist in the Navy during World War II. After his discharge in 1946 he returned to practicing law until 1950, when he was appointed a circuit judge for Clackamas County. Fifteen years later he was elected to the Supreme Court of Oregon. He retired in 1980, after 30 years to the day as a judge. Judge Holman said his family always placed a high value on education.

“I am of the belief that no democracy will work without an educated public and that each of us, if possible, should leave something in repayment for the opportunities this country has afforded us.”

The Honorable Ralph Holman

In addition to creating a scholarship fund, Judge Holman has become a member of Oregon Community Foundation’s Oregon Society, composed of Oregonians who have named OCF in their estate plans. He is creating a legacy for Oregon that will outlast even his long years in public service.