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Family Establishes Grover Lloyd Scholarship at MSCC

The family of Grover Lloyd has established a Mid-South Community College scholarship in memory of an irrigation specialist who was devoted to helping farmers throughout eastern Arkansas.



The Grover Lloyd Agricultural Aviation Scholarship will provide students in MSCC's Aviation Maintenance Technology program an opportunity to receive up to \$500 a year toward their college expenses.

Administered by the Mid-South Community College Foundation, the award supports a \$250 scholarship to MSCC students each fall and spring semester. Scholarships can be renewed for the spring semester if the student has maintained a 2.75 overall GPA and has earned passing grades in all courses.

Lloyd invented an automated cutoff system for irrigation pivots (for which he received a U.S. Patent Certificate in 1990) to conserve water and lower operating costs for the farming industry.

"He was always looking for ways to help Arkansas farmers produce greater crop yields," family members said. "In his career, he always strove for excellence in maintaining the equipment for the farmers he served. Whether it was a tractor, combine, cotton picker, or irrigation pivot, he always demonstrated 'service above self.'"

“The family wanted to establish this scholarship in his memory recognizing that agricultural aviation is another of the many aspects that support modern day farming operations. Grover Lloyd supported ‘all things farming.’”

The scholarship is designed to assist students who demonstrate financial need but do not meet state or federal grant income levels for assistance. Award funds can be applied toward tuition, fees, and/or books. Applicants must be enrolled in 15-18 credit hours each semester and must be pursuing Airframe and Powerplant certification through the Federal Aviation Administration.

Lloyd was born into a large family (five brothers and two sisters) in Plantersville, Miss., in 1926. Because times were hard, he attended school only through the sixth grade before staying home to help support the family.

Grover elected to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Navy during World War II, and when he returned, he married the former Elizabeth Lynch and started a family.

He and one of his brothers tried sharecropping but soon found they could not support two families. Grover went to Chicago to work in a factory, but he returned to Arkansas in 1957 to work for a farm machinery business in Mississippi County.

With the advent of the irrigation pivot, Lloyd found technology for which he quickly developed a love. He understood the relationship of the crops receiving water at the right time and the effect on the yield at harvest time. He studied technical manuals at night, all the while concerned about the high cost of equipment and maintenance for his farming customers.

When his wife died in 1988, he considered retirement, but, according to his family, “farming was in his blood.” He later invented the automated pivot cutoff device that allowed farmers to ensure they were receiving the optimum level of moisture.

Lloyd patented his invention in April 1990 and went into the pivot irrigation repair business with his youngest daughter and son-in-law.

In spite of his limited formal education, Lloyd raised a family, owned his own business, and invented and patented a device which conserved resources and lowered operating costs for one of the largest industries in the South.

According to family members, “he epitomized the MSCC slogan, ‘Start Here; Go Anywhere.’” Lloyd died of cancer in 1994.

To contribute to an existing scholarship at MSCC or to establish a new one, please contact Patti Coleman, MSCC Director of Advancement, at (870) 733-6764 or pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu.

The Mid-South Community College Foundation, which administers nearly 60 scholarships, is also offering direct on-line giving through the College’s website, www.midsouthcc.edu (click on MSCC Portal, MSCC Foundation, and Give Now).

The MSCC Foundation, Inc. is an independent charitable organization created to raise and oversee funds donated to MSCC in support of the college’s efforts to meet the needs of Crittenden County. It operates under a tax exempt 501(c)(3) status.