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Foundation Scholarship Adds Award in Memory of Pete Adkison

A Mid-South Community College Foundation scholarship has been expanded and renamed in memory of an employee's father and father-in-law.

The Adkison Arnold Family Scholarship, which memorializes Pete Adkison and Gene Arnold, supports the awarding of two \$250 scholarships to Mid-South Community College students each fall and spring semester.



Pete Adkison

because back in those days, you had to go to work to help your family. But he was a really smart man who just never had the chance to go to school.”

Adkison, a decorated World War II veteran (a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars), passed away in

Beth Adkison Arnold, who established the original scholarship with her son Chip, expanded it this year following the passing of her father, Pete Adkison.

“Education was really important to my daddy,” said Arnold, who serves as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Facilities Scheduler at MSCC. “He was so proud when I went back to school and graduated, and when Chip graduated, he was really proud.”

“Daddy never finished school



Gene Arnold

February at the age of 90 after battling cancer. He was a Staff Sergeant with Company F, 405th Battalion, 102nd Infantry Division.

Originally from western Tennessee, he moved to Hughes, Ark., and spent most of his life in farming. He also worked as maintenance man at a picture frame factory in Hughes.

“When I told him about the first scholarship (in memory of her husband’s father), he was just thrilled that we were helping other people,” Arnold said. “I’m sure he would be pleased to have his name on this scholarship.”

The Adkison Arnold Family Scholarship is designed to help nontraditional students pursue higher education. Beth was one of those students a few years back.

“I was in my 30’s, working, and taking care of a family,” she said. “When I went back to school, I couldn’t get any financial aid except for scholarships. That’s why we chose to make these awards available to non-traditional students.”

Because the MSCC Foundation brings donors and recipients together at an annual luncheon, Arnold has had the opportunity to talk with students who have earned the awards.

“One of the most exciting parts about providing scholarships is the opportunity to hear their stories, how they have struggled while returning to school and trying to better themselves. Scholarships, even for a small amount, really help the students.”

The Arnolds, who live in Widener, established the Gene Arnold Memorial Scholarship in 2009. Arnold, who passed away in June 2001, became a college student after retiring from Entergy at the age of 57. He enrolled in computer classes, and “he was hooked after the first one,” Beth said.

“He bought a computer and would stay up at night chatting with friends and watching eBay. He would go to class early to get ‘his’ computer and his favorite chair. He encouraged Chip to go to college and was very proud when he graduated. Gene Arnold passed away in June of 2001, but his memory is still very much alive in our family.”

Adkison Arnold Family Scholarship applicants must be at least 30 years old and have a 2.75 GPA. They must also be enrolled in a minimum of six college-credit hours,

and must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to demonstrate financial need. A brief summary of educational plans and goals is also required.

“Beth is a great ambassador for Mid-South Community College, and her desire to help older students is an inspiration to us all,” said Patti Coleman, MSCC Advancement director. “We appreciate her commitment to the College and her willingness to contribute to the future of our community.”

Mid-South Community College now offers more than 70 Foundation scholarships for students with a variety of academic interests and backgrounds.

“Thanks to the donors’ foresight and the value they place on education and our community, we are able to help many deserving students,” Coleman said. “These awards give students the opportunity to improve their lives as well as the lives of their family members.”

For information about the Adkison Arnold Memorial Scholarship or information about establishing an award in honor or memory of a family member, please contact Coleman at (870) 733-6764 or pdcoleman@midsouthcc.edu.

The MSCC Foundation operates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and contributions are tax deductible.