

Dear Children of Ed and Aline,

While I did not have the privilege of personally knowing Ed and Aline, their lasting impact on the world and family is evident through how highly they are spoken of in this scholarship description. Everyone has two biological parents, but unfortunately not everyone has true familial parents. It is one of the greatest blessings in life to have parents who fill both these roles. That is something I too have had in my life, and it's why losing one of those people is extremely difficult. When my mother passed away from cancer, I went through a similar experience so I understand first-hand how hard this can be. But, one saying I have heard is, "Grief is the price we pay for loving someone." So, sometimes I think of it in the context of grief is our hearts still loving someone who gave me everything.

One way I have learned to channel grief is through honoring the deceased. I believe this scholarship is one of the greatest ways to honor your parents, Ed and Aline. Their unwavering belief in generosity and joy deeply resonates with me, and is something I try to live through my college experience. I hope that through continued studies and as I enter the workforce and life in general I can continue to embody the values of Ed and Aline and make a lasting legacy in their honor.

I'd also like to send my deepest condolences to the family. Our faith tells us death is a transformation, not an end. Belief in that can be hard, but we should try to put our trust in the Lord. And, through this scholarship, Ed and Aline are being honored in an extremely impactful way. Thank you, and I promise if selected I will do everything I can to continue Ed and Aline's legacy.

Warmest Regards,

*Neil Foley*