



## **John E. Robinson Scholarship Fund**

830 Lakeview Dr

Paducah KY 42003

JERS@LoneOakAlumni.Org -- jers.loneoakalumni.org

## *Because You Asked...*

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**T**his May, the John Robinson Scholarship Fund will offer to renew two previously awarded \$2,500.00 annual scholarships, in addition to awarding two new \$2,500.00 annually renewable scholarships. The total awards for 2013 equaling \$10,000.00. That commitment is planned for the foreseeable future. The 2013 awards, as have all awards since the start of the fund, have been funded from donations received within each year while the overall endowment continues to rise. We realize that may not always be the case. Presently the overall value of the fund exceeds \$185,000. To date, we have awarded 43 LOHS seniors over \$70,000.00. We plan to continue that legacy.

All this has been made possible through the generous giving of alumni, former teachers and administrators seeking not only to honor John Robinson, but to make a difference in the lives of Lone Oak students. And we know that it has made a difference, as many have told us.

We also plan to continue the annual golf tournament and community breakfast, this year scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars.

The question often asked this year is what happens when the new McCracken County High School opens and our alma-mater closes. While the question has been answered in previous communications, it bears repeating - We give scholarships to Lone Oak students.

The future graduates, parents and perhaps administrators of the McCracken County High School may wonder why we feel this way for a man who left the school system almost half a century ago. But, our focus is on the man and his memory, who was in all regards; **LONE OAK**.

More than just Principal for 21 years, John Robinson was a crusader to the school board and to the community for the benefit of school and the students. A John Robinson Scholarship during his tenure, funded mostly from his own pocket, made a difference in the lives of many students over the years and he did more for others than was made public. John Robinson solicited community and business donations to fund enhancements beyond the original design to the gymnasium that now bears his name. He promoted other improvements including a renovated cafeteria and new science and arts building; after a long effort, he restarted a band program that won awards and recognition nationally and internationally and remains an exceptional program today; he greatly expanded clubs and activities so that every student had the opportunity to be involved; he was instrumental in the accreditation of LOHS into the Southern Association; established a Career Day program for seniors; all while academics excelled with a state high of 87% retention and 72% continuing to college. But John Robinson was equally involved in the community leading the Lone Oak Lions Club as its first President; building the largest PTA in the state at the time; and the list could go on. John Robinson was Lone Oak.

We hope you can tell that the John Robinson Scholarship Committee remains very dedicated to the memory of John Robinson, but we also remain very dedicated to the community he loved. As long as we can maintain funds the John Robinson Memorial Scholarship will give Lone Oak students encouragement like Mr. Robinson did; "Get educated and do your best."

**Q.** "What happens in 2013, when the county high school opens and LOHS no longer graduates seniors?"

**A.** It is disappointing the school that has been the center of a community for over a century will no longer exist, however, **Lone Oak Elementary, Hendron-Lone Oak Elementary** and **Lone Oak Middle** still exist and will in-fact grow into the open high school space. During most of John Robinson's career at Lone Oak, the school housed all grades 1 through 12. So it is fitting to keep the Robinson Scholarships specific to Lone Oak students. As such, recipients of John Robinson Scholarships should be graduates of Lone Oak Middle School.