

THE BRUNDIDGE ROTARY CLUB



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM School Year 2021-2022

THE BRUNDIDGE ROTARY CLUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

I. Application

Applications will be made available by the Selection Committee to schools within the trade area of the City of Brundidge. Each school guidance counselor is asked to seek applications from all of its senior class members and then screen the applications and submit **no more than three nominations** for submission to the Brundidge Rotary Club Selection Committee. The form of such application shall be substantially the same as that attached hereto. Applications should be submitted to the Selection Committee c/o Buriece Gracie Agency, State Farm Insurance Co., Main Street, Brundidge, AL not later than **March 4, 2021**, to be considered for an award for the following Fall Term. The nominees from each area high school will be invited to attend a regular weekly Rotary Club Meeting tentatively set for **April 21, 2021**, prior to selection of the recipients. Announcement of the recipients will be made at the next regularly scheduled Rotary Club meeting.

II. Scope of Scholarship Program

Scholarship money will be paid to the college, university or vocational school of the recipient's choice for his or her account by August 1. Scholarship Awards will not be made to children or grandchildren of members of the Brundidge Rotary Club.

One J. Ralph Dickert Rotary Scholarship, one Wilburn E. Howard Rotary Scholarship, one Harold Rodgers Memorial Scholarship, one Robert L. Godwin Memorial Scholarship, one Reynolds E. Wallace, Jr. Rotary Scholarship one Sara Spano Memorial Scholarship, one R. Lawrence Bowden Scholarship, one in honor of Sherroll Tatom and one in honor of Donald Johnston, Jr., will be awarded in the amount of \$1000.00 each for the school year 2020-2021. This brings the total number of scholarships that will be awarded this year to nine.

III. Criteria Used in Selection of Recipients

The Selection Committee shall consider but not be limited to the following criteria in determining recipients of Scholarship funds:

Max. Points:

- 10 A. Location of the applicant's residence. Preference will be given to residents of the City of Brundidge and its trade area.
- B. High School Record
- 10 1. Academic
- 10 2. Extra Curricular Activities
- 10 C. Leadership potential.
- 10 D. Community Service Record.
- 25 E. Financial need of the applicant. Preference will be given to applicants who might not be able to attend college without the scholarship.

IV. Source of Funds

The J. Ralph Dickert Rotary Scholarship, Wilburn Howard Rotary Scholarship and the Reynolds E. Wallace Jr. Rotary Scholarships have historically been funded by money raised by projects of the Brundidge Rotary Club along with contributions from the family of J. Ralph Dickert. Projects of the club supporting this program as well as other programs of the club in recent years include: Boston Butt Sales, Weekly Door Prize Drawing, Doug Botts Memorial Golf Tournament, Christmas Silent Auction, and Alabama-Auburn Tickets raffle. The Harold Rodgers Memorial Scholarship, the Robert L. Godwin Memorial Scholarship, the R. Lawrence Bowden Scholarship and the Sherroll Tatom Scholarship are funded by Donald G. Johnston, Jr. Estate and his wife, Fernan N. Johnston, the Sara Spano Memorial Scholarship is funded by Larry Shiver, the Donald Johnston, Jr. Scholarship is funded by Sherroll Tatom.

A trust administered by Troy Bank and Trust Co. manages these funds. Contributions to the trust have also been made by Wal-Mart, Dr. Pink Folmar, Lamar and Shirley Steed, and Transload America and an anonymous donor. As a result of disruptions to our fund raising projects caused by the Covid pandemic, donations to the Scholarship Trust have also been made this year by Troy Bank & Trust Co., Pike County Chamber of Commerce, State Farm Insurance Co., Wallace Pump & Supply Co., Brian McDaniel, Freddie Turner, Danny Graham, Buriece Gracey, Ben Busbee, Lamar Steed, Moses Davenport and Jimmy Ramage..

V. Background of the J. Ralph Dickert Rotary Scholarship.

Begun in 1994, this Scholarship program is sponsored by the Brundidge Rotary Club and the family of James Ralph Dickert as a tribute for his many years of unselfish, dedicated service to The Brundidge Rotary Club, Rotary International, The City of Brundidge and the many other organizations which he served with distinction.

J. Ralph Dickert joined the Brundidge Rotary Club in 1940, just 2 years after it was organized. In 1941, he served a half year as president before entering the Army during World War II. In 1947 he again served a half year as president of the club. The Club presented him with the "Service Above Self Award" in 1966. In 1969-70, for the third time, he headed the club. Ralph was the first member of the Club to earn recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow after \$1,000.00 was donated by the club to the Rotary Foundation in his honor. His loyal and dedicated service is illustrated by the fact that he only missed 3 Rotary meetings during the last 33 years of his life with perfect attendance during the last 16 years he lived. He attended a Montgomery Rotary Club meeting while waiting to be checked into the hospital the day before he died.

He also served Rotary International District 688 as District Special Projects Chairman. Later he was the District Governor's Special Representative during which time he organized the Elba Rotary Club. Finally, he was elected District Governor of Rotary International District 688 which covers approximately half of the State of Alabama.

Ralph's loyalty also extended to his many other community activities. He served his church, The Brundidge United Methodist Church in every official capacity including Superintendent of the

Sunday School Department, Chairman of The Administrative Board and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a position he held at his death. He was a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Society For Cripple Children and Adults.

For twelve years Ralph Dickert served The City of Brundidge as a member of the City Commission, including three terms as Mayor. He was a charter member of the Brundidge Industrial Development Board and served on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Alabama Gas District and the South Alabama Electric Cooperative. He was instrumental in establishing the Brundidge Country Club and served as its president for the first three years. He also served on the Southeast Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America for 16 years and was involved in the acquisition of land for the establishment of Camp Alaflo. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the highest award in scouting for adults - The Silver Beaver.

Ralph Dickert was held in high esteem by his colleagues in the business world as well. He held the office of Vice President of the Southeastern Lumbermen's Club, and was a member of the Alabama Forestry Association and the Alabama Trucking Association. He also served for a short time on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Brundidge.

VI. Background of the Harold Rodgers Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Johnston, Jr. in memory of Harold Rodgers in 1997. In establishing this Scholarship program Donald Johnston, Jr. stated that "Harold Rodgers was somewhat of a mentor as I was coming along. My father died when I was a young boy and Harold made sure that opportunities for work came my way. He gave me work at M.L. McDowell Grocery where he served as manager. He encouraged me to join the National Guard. Later, when I was in college he helped me to get a job at the post office. He was someone who went out of his way to help me and I appreciate what he did. Through this scholarship we hope the recipients will begin to understand what kind of person he was. Our goal in establishing this scholarship is to perpetuate the spirit of helping others that Harold Rodgers possessed."

Harold Rodgers was a Brundidge native who served his community as a postal worker for 30 years. He was postmaster when he retired in 1978. He served his country in the Air Corps during World War II and spent an 18 month tour of duty in the South Pacific. In 1955, Rodgers was one of four men who helped organize the National Guard unit in Brundidge. As a member of the National Guard, he spent 10 months on active duty at Fort Polk, Louisiana, during the Berlin Crisis.

He was a member of the Brundidge Rotary Club for many years and served as president of the club in 1964-65. He was also a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a loyal member of the Brundidge United Methodist Church for many years and served on its official board for ten years.

VII. Background of the Robert L. Godwin Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Johnston, Jr. in memory of Robert L. "Bob" Godwin in 2002. "Mr. Bob" moved to Brundidge in 1938 and began a portable hay and corn grinding service for area farmers. This business grew into "Bob's Feeds", an important producer of as many as 80 different animal feed products to farmers in Alabama, Georgia and Northwest Florida. Bob's Feeds was the first feed company to market a commercial sinking fish food. During its peak years, employment reached 90 people. He also founded "Bob's Eggs" which eventually produced as many as 800 cases of eggs per day which were sold primarily to A & P and Piggly Wiggly Supermarkets. In addition he operated "Winwood Farms" where he raised Purebred Shorthorn Cattle, hogs and poultry. For seventeen years he sponsored the annual "FFA Day" at Winwood Farms with animal judging and tractor skills competitions and other events for Wiregrass area FFA students.

Mr. Bob was generous to his employees and it is reported that his company was the first in the area to give paid vacations to its black employees. Mr. Bob was very active in statewide political races for a number of years and developed contacts with many elected and appointed officials in state and federal government. Through these contacts he was able to help influence decisions to keep the National Guard Armory and Vehicle Maintenance Shop in Brundidge, and to preserve the present route of US Highway 231 in this area. He actively promoted Brundidge and was able to help acquire funds for construction of the airport. He worked to improve his community in many ways and became a member of the Brundidge City Council. He was a founding member of the Brundidge Chamber of Commerce and was very active in attracting new industry to the area. He personally influenced the decision of Regal Gloves to locate a factory in Brundidge.

He was a faithful member of the Salem Baptist Church and served as a Deacon and as Sunday School Superintendent. He also found time to visit sick and shut in people in the community on a regular basis. He provided transportation to many members and once bought a school bus for a local church. Robert L. Godwin was a loyal member of the Brundidge Rotary Club for many years and served as its President in 1960-61. Mr. Bob set an example of citizenship others should strive to emulate.

VIII. Background of the Wilburn E. Howard Rotary Scholarship

Another scholarship was added to the Brundidge Rotary Club Scholarship Program in 2009 and named in honor of Wilburn E. Howard. He was born at Verbena, Chilton County, Alabama, on January 13, 1925, and graduated from Verbena High School. He served approximately 3 years in the US Army Air Corps during WWII as a cadet and later in Europe as a pilot aboard a B-17 bomber. Mr. Howard graduated from the Southern College of Watch Making in Memphis, Tennessee.

He owned and operated Howard Jewelry Co. in Brundidge, AL for many years. Mr. Howard was a member of the Alabama Retail Jewelers Association, Retail Jewelers of America and Watchmakers of America. He was a member of the Brundidge United Methodist Church and served for a number of years on its Official Board. He was a member of the Brundidge Masonic Lodge and served two terms as Master. He was a member of the Brundidge American Legion and served for a time as its Post Adjutant.

In addition to serving his vocational interests he was very civic minded as well. Wilburn was a charter member of the Brundidge Rescue Squad that was formed in 1970. He completed 3 months of intensive training to become an EMT for this volunteer organization which served our community for 25 years until it was disbanded in 1995. Not only did he make numerous emergency ambulance runs over this period but he served in every office of the organization including Secretary – Treasurer, Squad Leader and Captain. In the early years when communication was by CB radio, Wilburn's handle was Diamond Back.

Wilburn E. Howard was a long time loyal and dedicated Brundidge Rotarian having joined the club in 1955 and retiring from it December 31, 1997. He served the Club as Vice President, President and for 37 continuous years, as its Secretary - Treasurer, a job requiring a considerable amount of time and effort each week. He had a record of perfect attendance at weekly Rotary Meetings stretching over a period of more than 10 years. The Brundidge Rotary Club honored Wilburn in January of 1982 by donating \$1,000 in his name to Rotary International's Rotary Foundation and making him one of the Club's early Paul Harris Fellows.

Wilburn E. Howard has provided the Brundidge community with an enviable record of distinguished public service and sets an example worthy of the appreciation of all of our citizens.

IX. Background of the Reynolds E. Wallace, Jr. Rotary Scholarship

Another scholarship was named by the Brundidge Rotary Club Scholarship Program in 2011, in memory of Reynolds E. Wallace, Jr. Reynolds was born in Selma, Alabama on July 4, 1921 and graduated from Dallas Academy. He later received a B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1946, with a major in agricultural engineering. He was a WWII veteran having served in the 15th Army Air Corps stationed in Italy and Sicily.

After the war, Reynolds and his wife Shirley moved to Brundidge, Alabama in 1946 and founded Wallace Pump & Supply Co. along with his father Reynolds E. Wallace, Sr. They literally followed the Rural Electric Cooperative's newly installed power lines, and they sold and installed electric water pumps to provide indoor plumbing for homeowners. This was a much needed and anticipated commodity in the late 1940's. Later his company became a wholesaler of pumps, plumbing, electrical, and irrigation supplies that still exists today in Brundidge, AL and Mexico Beach, FL.

Reynolds loved his home in Brundidge, AL and was involved in many church, civic, and scouting organizations. He was a member of the Brundidge United Methodist Church and served it in many different capacities. He served on the Administrative Board, Board of Trustees, and

was a Sunday School teacher. He was also a member and past president of the Brundidge Chamber of Commerce.

Reynolds E. Wallace, Jr. was a long time Brundidge Rotarian, joining the club in the early 1950's. He served as President on two separate occasions: 1953 - 1954 and 1981 - 1982. He also served many times on the Board of Directors and also as bulletin editor. The Brundidge Rotary Club honored Reynolds in 1988 by presenting him with the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Reynolds E. Wallace, Jr. served for many years on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Brundidge. He also served the city as a member of the Brundidge Industrial Board.

Scouting was one of his passions and he served in many different ways. He was a Cub Scout Pack Master, a Boy Scout Scoutmaster, and one of the founders of Woodlore Camping School. In 1974, he served as president of the Alabama - Florida Council of the B.S.A. He also received one of scouting's highest honors: the Silver Beaver award. He was known for his great storytelling ability around campfires and many scouting friends called him the "Silver Fox".

Reynolds E. Wallace, Jr. loved God, his family, and his community and would be honored to know that this scholarship was named in his memory.

X. Background of the Sara Spano Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2011 by Larry Shiver in memory of Mrs. Sara Spano. Mrs. Spano was a teacher in the Georgia school system and served as President of the Georgia Parent Teachers Association for many years. After a career in teaching, she began a second career as a columnist and food editor for the Columbus Leger-Enquirer newspaper in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Spano authored a recipe book and another book entitled "I Could Have Written Gone With The Wind, But Cousin Margaret Beat Me To It". She was a cousin to Margaret Mitchell.

She helped many people, including Larry Shiver, who for various reasons did not have the resources to attend college. Larry said "In my case she simply left a check and a note for me at the newspaper. The note stated that she knew I was having financial problems with tuition and that she didn't know anyone she respected more for working as hard and making the grades I did in college." The only thing she asked in return was an invitation to Larry's graduation and "If you are ever able to help someone, do so." These are the reasons that Larry Shiver wanted to sponsor this scholarship.

Larry said that in his mind, Sara epitomized the gospel of St. Matthew where it says "In so much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have doe it also unto me". Sara Spano received many honors during her lifetime, but none that she would have considered as great as having a scholarship to help a child attend college named in her memory. Larry Shiver said he is honored and blessed to be able to do this in her memory.

XI. Background of the R. Lawrence Bowden Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2016 by Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Johnston Jr., in honor of Reuben Lawrence Bowden, Sr. Lawrence was born July 16, 1929, the youngest of seven children, in Tennille, Alabama. He attended public schools in Brundidge until his graduation from high school in 1945. Lawrence began his postsecondary education at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa where he was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry in 1948.

Upon graduation from college, Lawrence enlisted in the military and attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Riley, Kansas, graduating in 1949. He received training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, before being assigned to active duty in Okinawa. At the beginning of the Korean Conflict, Lawrence requested and received duty in Korea where he was stationed until 1953.

Returning home following the war, Lawrence organized the first National Guard Unit in Brundidge and became its commanding officer in 1953. The unit was activated during the Cuban Missile Crisis and deployed in 1962 to Fort Polk, Louisiana, under Lawrence's leadership. He retired from active military duty and the National Guard as a colonel.

In January of 1961, Lawrence became a state employee with the Alabama Department of Civil Defense. He retired 33 years later as deputy director of the agency which was renamed Emergency Management, having served at one point as interim director and a member of the governor's cabinet. He is a member of the Alabama Retired State Employee's Association.

For over 60 years Lawrence has been a member of Brundidge United Methodist Church where he has served as chairman of the administrative board on many occasions as well as various committees. He continues his service at the church as a Sunday school teacher.

He served as past district co-coordinator of the United Methodist Disaster Response Team using the skills and knowledge gained during his career with the state and has served as a member of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and as a District Lay Leader for the Brundidge United Methodist Church to yearly Annual Conferences.

Lawrence has served as a member of the American Red Cross Board of Directors, South Alabama Branch. He has also served as a board chairman and disaster chairman for the Pike County American Red Cross. In addition, he is a board member and a past two-term chairman for the East Central Mental Health Agency.

Currently, Lawrence is a member of the Pike County Republican Party where he has served as a past president. He also has memberships in the Alabama Republican Party and the Republican National Committee.

At the present time, Lawrence is president of the Brundidge Historical Society which he helped organize and is an original cast member of the Alabama Folk Play, "Come Home, It's Suppertime." As part of his association with the BHS, Lawrence is actively involved in the planning and preparation of Brundidge's Annual Peanut Butter Festival held each year in October.

Lawrence served on the Brundidge City Council for 8 years and earned the professional designation of "Advance Certified Municipal Official" by the Alabama League of Municipalities after completing 80 hours of training.

Each year Lawrence participates in the Pike County Relay for Life as a member of the Survivor's Team and has served in other capacities with the organization. Over his lifelong residency in Pike County, Lawrence has served in many capacities and volunteered his time with other agencies and organizations.

XII. Background of the Sherroll Tatom Scholarship

This scholarship was established in March of 2019 by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Johnston, Jr. in honor of Sherroll Tatom. Mr. Tatom was born in Banks, AL in 1923, and completed the Banks school system transferring to Brundidge Senior High School for the last 3 years finishing in 1941. He first job was bottle boy on a soft drink truck during the summer of 1940 where he earned \$15.00 per week.

After High School he attended Massey Draughn Business College. In 1942, he went to work with Weil Brothers Cotton Broker and worked there until being called into service during World War II on March 16, 1943. He served in England, France and Germany and was discharged in 1946 as a Corporal. He went to work for Brundidge Banking Company the next month and one year later married Irene Ashworth of Troy, and went to work with his father in the general merchandise store in Banks.

In 1954, he was called back into the service as a result of the Korean War and served in France as First Sergeant of Company C of the 866th Engineer Aviation Battalion. until being discharged in 1957. He immediately began employment at Therio L. P. Gas Company where he worked for about 3 years before returning to The Brundidge Banking Company. Beginning as a Teller, Mr. Tatom worked at the bank for 33 years retiring as President.

Mr. Tatom has been active in all areas of his church serving the Methodist Churches when he lived in Banks and then in Brundidge. He was a Lay Speaker for about 25 years and Lay Leader, as well as Sunday School Teacher and Superintending of the Sunday School in Banks and Brundidge. He became Chairman of the Administrative Board at Brundidge Methodist Church.

He served on the Banks City Council from 1953 until being called back into the service. After retiring from the bank, he served 16 years on the Brundidge City Council.

Mr. Tatom was an active member of the Brundidge Lions Club for over 26 years and a member of

the Brundidge Business Association for several years and a founding member of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce. He was generous with his talents and was a founding member of the “We Piddle Around Theatre” performances of “Come Home Its Suppertime” for over 15 years.

Mr. Don Johnston, in establishing this scholarship said that “it is important to recognize the many years of service and leadership to the citizens of our area provided by Mr. Sherroll Tatom and that he is hopeful that our youth will be motivated by his example”.

XIII. Background of the Donald G. Johnston, Jr. Scholarship

This scholarship was established in October of 2019 by Sherroll Tatom as a tribute for the many years of support for the Brundidge Rotary Club Scholarship Program and his interest in the people of Brundidge.

Born February 28, 1937 , Brundidge, Alabama, Don Johnston, Jr. is the second of 5 children. His father died while Don was in high school and he was raised by his mother and the whole community.

During his high school years at Pike County High School, he played basketball, and because of his height, he was known as “Golie”, short for Goliath, the biblical giant. An appropriate name for a man who is, and has always been, a “giant of a man”.

From the age of 11 years, Don has been employed. These jobs included newspaper delivery, grocery delivery, Mr. Mooneyham's and Mr. Green's shoe stores, VJ Elmore's Dime Store (candy counter), Brundidge Post Office (on holidays from college), checking farm land for the county, Bob Godwin's feed mill, the National Guard, and others.

After graduation, Don moved to Gainesville, GA, to begin a job with Packlet Textiles, met Fernan (Ferdie), in her senior year at Brenau College whom he married.

They lived in Gainesville for a short time, then moved to Brundidge into Don's childhood home since Don had been offered a position with Doxie Foods. Soon he was promoted to plant manager in their Baltimore location. After 3 years in Baltimore, Don accepted a management position with Inland Container in Macon, GA. and later, a sales position with Dale Carnegie. They enjoyed living in Macon for 13 years, raising their 3 children there.

In 1979 Don accepted a position in Eufaula with Boyd Brothers Transportation Company as general manager, later becoming President and CEO of the company. During his 20 years with Boyd Brothers, the company grew from 40 trucks to 1,000.

During his career he held many leadership positions and awards including:

Board Member, College of Business, Auburn University
Member, Business Advisory Board , School of Business, Auburn University

University of Georgia Profitability Conference
President, Alabama Trucking Association
Chairman, Board of United Methodist Children's Home (continues to serve on board)
Chairman, Finance Committee, Eufaula United Methodist Church
Chairman, Pasto Auburn Alumnus Outstanding Award in Business
Pastor-Parrish Committee, Eufaula United Methodist Church
Best Transport Technology Corp.
1998 "Distinguished Executive for Outstanding Service to the Transportation Industry" award.

He has often said that finding and marrying Ferdie has been such a wonderful blessing throughout his life. One of his best decisions!

9. Community Activities _____
(please elaborate and attach another page if necessary)

10. Employment history _____

11. Church membership, activities, offices or honors _____

12. Other organizations _____

13. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? _____ If so, please give details.

14. Planned field of Study: _____

15. Career Goals : _____

16. What College or University do you plan to attend?

(Scholarship funds will be sent to the school during July. If your plans change please notify us by June 1. If you are unable to attend school in the fall please advise us as soon as you know.)

17. What source of funds will you have while in college?

18. Are you the recipient of any other scholarship funds? If so, please give all details.

19. Have you applied for or do you intend to apply for any other scholarship? If so, please give all details.

20. Would you be able to attend college without this scholarship? _____

