

The Rose Elizabeth Bell MacConkey Scholarship Fund for Women Going into a Career in Business

Rose's Legacy:

On 5/31/1935, a young woman walked across the stage to receive her high school diploma. Rose Elizabeth Bell had worked hard to graduate from Cambridge High School. Her love of education had been instilled in her by her mother, Ethel Christina Cochran, the oldest of eight children and the only one of her family to graduate from high school, in 1907 in Quaker City, Ohio. In a class of 17, where only six were women, each graduate had to write a short essay to present at graduation. Topic examples were "Steam Navigation" and "Electrical Achievements," but Ethel's essay in 1907 was entitled, "Self Reliance."

Rose had fought to take Languages when the General high school course of study did not include that, and she especially loved Latin. Her father, Bliss Bell, had told her he did not have the money to send her to a University, but she attended night classes at the Cambridge Business School, while working at the Gas Company on Wheeling Avenue. Back then, she had been required to quit her job when she married.

Rose had two children and was widowed at a young age. Returning to the work force, she began working in the office of Cambridge High School, where she stayed until she retired in the 1980s. Her many duties included keeping the books and accounting for all of the various departments. Rose loved her job, and when asked about her accomplishments, she always mentioned her children and working at the Cambridge High School.

Rose MacConkey gave her whole heart to the people she loved, and she cared so much about helping others. Rose always believed more women needed to be in business careers and running businesses. She was an active member of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Cambridge, and instrumental in the "Chips for Shoes" program there. She was a Past President of the American Legion Auxiliary, and worked at the Samaritan Room of the First United Methodist Church. Her goals were always to empower women and to help those less fortunate.

Upon retiring, Rose moved to Columbus, Ohio, to be close to her daughter, Barbara. She had an incredible mind, understanding business and politics. Rose was always so good with numbers, and she loved puzzles and all kinds of card games. Rose started card clubs at her various places of residence, including when she lived in Assisted Living. She enjoyed teaching Bridge, Pinochle, Euchre, Spite and Malice, and many other games. Her creativity was amazing, showcased by spectacular embroidered quilts, as well as crochet and ceramic projects. Her daughter always said she got all of her business sense and artistic talents from Rose.

Rose had such a rich sense of humor with a ready laugh and contagious smile. She loved to travel and was always ready for new adventures, like riding Amtrak to California to visit her son, Jim; or driving over the mountains into the lights of Las Vegas at midnight. She loved tennis, bowling, and dancing.

So, in honor and memory of Rose Elizabeth Bell MacConkey and all of the things she cared so deeply about, this scholarship is to be awarded to a young woman at Cambridge High School who will be entering a university, college, or trade school leading to a career in the business world. **Her family wishes you incredible success, true happiness, and a life filled with adventure!**