

Lyons Charitable Foundation Transfer Student Scholarship

Established in 2019 by the Lyons Charitable Foundation



John W. "Bill" Lyons Jr. Class of 1959

Bill Lyons was a genuine Texas giant and the epitome of the Aggie Spirit. His love and devotion for Texas A&M was only exceeded by his enormous commitment to youth and people on the Gulf Coast. With a personality twice his size, Bill quietly affected the lives of many Aggies and his legacy will live on for many years, said Dr. Eddie J. Davis '67, president of the Texas A&M Foundation during Bill's funeral in 2014.

Bill was a scientist (graduating in 1959 with a degree in biology), an attorney, a banker, an entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a fisherman, an avid outdoorsman, an environmentalist, a community leader, and a diehard Aggie Football enthusiast.

He funded multiple prestigious endowed chairs, scientific (and specifically fisheries) research, renovation of Kyle Field, direct academic support for student athletes, Sea Camp scholarships, and a myriad of special projects. His generosity was even larger than his personality.

Although he had many financial successes, he came from humble roots. His father served as the Galveston Postmaster and the post office on Broadway street in Galveston still carries his name. Bill graduated from Ball High School in Galveston before attending Texas A&M so the island was a special place to him.

This scholarship combines Bill's passions for Texas A&M University and Galveston County. A scholarship dedicated to transfer students fits perfect with his philosophy to pursue education. During his lifetime, Bill would have dinner with the scholarship recipients at least once a semester. He loved to hear what the students were doing but it was also a time that he could challenge them. He believed in grit! He wanted students to work hard, dream big, and give back.

As a scholarship recipient, use the funds wisely. Challenge yourself to learn more than you are expected. He would want you to know: “it’s not what you have that matters; it is what you do with what you have, to serve a greater good and make a difference.”