

The Brent L. Blacketor Memorial Scholarship

Brent Blacketor was a young man who was known for his warm, outgoing personality. Whether you were wealthy or poor, at the top of the class or the bottom, Brent Blacketor still wanted to be your friend. He was an only child born in Rochester to Mabel and Kline Blacketor.

Brent graduated from Rochester High School and had been very involved in extra-curricular activities. He was a member of 4-H, Future Farmers of America, choir, and various other clubs. Additionally, he played football, basketball, and ran track throughout his high school career.

Pat Thompson was a long-time family friend of the Blacketors. She met Brent when they were in first grade, and throughout the rest of their school years, the two were nearly inseparable. Brent even had his own room at her house.

“He was everybody’s friend,” Pat remembered, fondly. “If you ever needed help, he was always there.”

After high school, Brent attended the University of Arizona and was studying to be a lawyer. Sadly, Brent passed away in 1959 while working with McMahan Construction on a highway construction project near Culver.

After her son’s tragic and unexpected passing, Mabel Blacketor and her husband, Kline, set out to be as active as they could in the community to fulfill his role. They tried to live by the saying, “You make a living by what you do, but you make a life by what you give.” Mabel never ceased to offer her help and support to Fulton County and other communities. She traveled to Illinois to assist a First Baptist Church group in cleaning up a flooded river town. She also served as an adviser of the Senior High youth group to work on a project at an Indian mission in Arizona, she was a motivator for the Rochester Pathways Project, and she was one of the original service committee members of the Fulton County Community Foundation.

Mabel continued to be a constant donator to the community after her husband passed away in 1983. She donated twenty-five acres to establish the Brent Blacketor Memorial Sports Complex, offered land for the expansion of the Round Barn Golf Course at Mill Creek, put forth the first \$5,000 for the Fulton County 4-H Fund, and donated dozens of smaller gifts.

“She will always be remembered as the woman who made an impact,” said Robert Patterson, Mabel’s employer at Peterson Law firm.

After her death, Mabel graciously left the majority of her estate to the Northern Indiana Community Foundation, leaving one of the biggest donations the Foundation has ever received. Part of her legacy benefits graduates of Rochester Community High School through a scholarship fund created in memory of her son, Brent.

The Brent L. Blacketor Memorial Scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate similar qualities to those that Brent exemplified. Recipients must show academic ability, involvement with leadership activities, service to community or church, good character and citizenship, and probability of success. The scholarship also supports students that match the good-natured characteristics of the Blacketor family, who've helped make Fulton County what it is today.