The Arlowa Vorm Memorial Fund

Those who knew and loved Arlowa Vorm remember her for her passion for service. Her husband, Fred, said on her behalf, "Some people just talk about what they'd like to do… Arlowa went out and did it!"

Arlowa and her husband, Fred, grew up together in North Judson. They were married on March 1, 1947, Arlowa's birthday, and were together for an incredible 56 years.

They had known one another for their entire lives. Fred was born on January 1, exactly two months before her. Arlowa's mother visited Fred and his family while pregnant with Arlowa, and Arlowa later joked that she'd visited Fred before she was even born! Fred recalls that as young children, he and Arlowa didn't like each other much. He preferred to play with Arlowa's brothers. As they got older, though, they became friends.

Fred attended Culver Military Academy from the time he was twelve until he was eighteen. He came home for Christmas, and for his nineteenth birthday, he had a party for his guy friends, and he told them all to bring a date. Arlowa planned to attend with one of Fred's friends, who never came to pick her up. Fred told her over the phone that he still wanted her to come and that he would be glad to come get her. His date, however, didn't like that and asked someone else to take her home. What started out as a seemingly unfortunate night turned into the beginning of an almost sixty-year relationship.

The two loved to travel, and Arlowa always had a strong interest in Native American culture and history. She loved to learn about Indians and collect Indian artifacts, including paintings and Kachina dolls. She also was an accomplished musician who played the French horn at Butler University, played and taught piano lessons at home, and led the children's choir at the North Judson First United Methodist Church, all while raising four children. In the early 80s, she and her daughter, Nancy, envisioned starting a coffee house. They eventually opened the popular *Coffee Tea Market* in Valparaiso.

In the early 1970s, Arlowa and her neighbor, Louis Rozhon, began making plans to establish a park system in their hometown, North Judson. For the next 27 years, she worked to make this dream a reality by finding volunteers and encouraging the community to donate the necessary funds and land. Finally, the North Judson Town Park and Norwayne Field were opened.

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When proposed with the idea of starting a community foundation, Arlowa was immediately interested and became determined to see it through. When she came home one evening with her plans, Fred had his doubts that it would ever happen in such a small community. “But they were persistent,” Fred said. “And they did it.”

Working with the Community Foundation was Arlowa's passion. Among her many accomplishments, she played a large role Schuyler in starting the Family Endowment Fund.

Arlowa passed away on December 15, 2003. Those who knew Arlowa, including those at the Starke County Community Foundation, miss her support, musical talent, and strength. Her loving personality and desire to serve others continue to inspire the community.

To honor her memory, Fred established the Arlowa S. Vorm Memorial Fund. He continues to contribute to the community and to encourage others to follow Arlowa's life of service.

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