

The Runkle Family Fund

When Habo Runkle's daughter, Barbara, tragically passed away in a car accident in 1983, Habo sought to honor her by establishing a fund with the Northern Indiana Community Foundation. By the time the fund was established, Habo's husband, Clifford, and mother-in-law, Dorothy, had passed away, and Habo expanded the fund to the Runkle Family Fund, in order to commemorate those who meant so much to her.

Barbara Rae Runkle was the only daughter of Habo and Clifford. She was very bright, and was named salutatorian of her high school graduating class, the same title her father had earned in 1958. She enjoyed working with numbers and had been studying accounting. She also took interest in biology classes and working with people. She had recently graduated from Ball State University.

Habo fondly remembers her mother-in-law, Dorothy, as an incredibly strong woman who felt like a mother to her. Dorothy went to work in a factory in order to support her five children when her husband passed away when he was just thirty-eight years old. She graciously welcomed Habo into the family when she and Clifford married. Dorothy enjoyed bowling, traveling, and quilting. After she passed away, her children honored her by displaying her quilts at the Harvest Festival.

Habo and her husband, Clifford, graduated together from Knox High School in 1958. Clifford was always a very intelligent, hard-working person. After graduation, he attended Illinois Institute of Technology and worked in mechanical drawing before being employed by Standard Oil. He also worked for Ed Campbell and helped to build Bowlaway Lanes bowling alley, which he later purchased.

Clifford loved the outdoors, and for several years, he owned the Wilderness Park Campground on the Tippecanoe River which he ran with his family. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and traveling.

Habo still lives in Knox and enjoys bowling, cooking, crocheting, reading, and singing. For several years, she belonged to Sounds of Hope, a group which tours overseas every two years, stays with host families, and holds concerts around the world. She also attends Choir School at Anderson University each year.

After graduating from high school, Habo dreamt of becoming a nurse; however, she did not see this goal as one she would be able to attain. Over sixteen years ago, while she was working as a school bus driver, Habo heard about an LPN program, through which she could earn a degree in only two years, and she immediately drove to Ivy Tech to apply. A couple years later, her dream was finally reached, and she got her first job working at a nursing home, working with Alzheimer's patients.

Having raised her five siblings when she was young and raising her own three children, Habo certainly had caring and motherly qualities, which carried over to her career as a nurse. She has worked at the nursing home now for sixteen years and is eligible for retirement, but she enjoys what she does so much that she is not quite ready to leave.

Habo's caring personality is reflected in her efforts to commemorate her loved ones through the Runkle Family Fund, which will also endlessly benefit the community. She continues to contribute to the fund in memory of her daughter, mother-in-law, and husband, and she hopes to see it continue forever.