

The Rex E. Mays Memorial Fund

The Rex E. Mays Memorial Fund was established in memory of Rex Mays, a man whose spirit lives in many people, as described by Rev. John Hess at the 2009 Miami County Community Character Pillar Awards.

Rex Mays, who died unexpectedly on his farm during September 2008, exemplified great character throughout his life. Honesty, forgiveness, loyalty, courage, respect and responsibility were just a few of the many characteristics he embraced and practiced every day.



Rex Mays Family

Rex Mays was born in Peru, Indiana and grew up on a farm. After he graduated from high school, he worked as a teller at the First Federal Savings and Loan Association in Miami County.

He met his wife Juanita while attending a Sunday church service—that day would prove fortuitous as the couple married in 1959. Shortly after, Rex was drafted into the United States Army where he served for two years. He later returned to Peru and resumed work at First Federal Savings and Loan Association, where he was eventually promoted to vice president and treasurer until he retired in 1995.

Rex was passionate about athletics and was involved with community sports. He was a certified IHSAA referee, officiated several basketball games, and was a softball umpire. He served as secretary/treasurer of the North Central Indiana Officials Association and was also the director of the Maconaquah Park Softball League.

After retirement, Rex traveled the United States with Juanita. He also served as a bus driver for Peru Community Schools; first part-time and then full-time in 2005. Rex always focused on reaching out to students, making sure to always offer encouragement and always consider their safety. He aimed to instill traditional values in his young passengers as well.

Even though Rex's departure was sudden and unexpected, the immense impact he had on others never ceased, so his family honored his wish to enable others live longer and healthier lives. His close friend, Max Hattery, suggested that memorial contributions could establish an endowment with the Miami County Community Foundation. The fund is set up to help support programs and projects in the field of youth athletics that assist people in developing and strengthening their character by teaching them sportsmanship.

For more information on the Miami County Community Foundation, or to learn how the Foundation can help you fulfill your charitable wishes, contact Patrick Close, Director of Development, at 765-475-2859 or visit nicf.org.