

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 May Family

Rex Mays was born in Peru, Ind., and grew up on a farm. He later moved out of the county because his land was bought by the government to build Grissom Air Force Base. 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 and officiated several basketball games. He also carried his love for sports from the court to the baseball diamond as he was also 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 and traversed the country 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 into his young passengers as well. He adopted a 'ladies first' policy, and his male students would stand back to let their female classmates on the bus first. He also wanted his students to develop self esteem and good character.

Even though Rex's departure was sudden and unexpected, the immense impact he had on others never ceased. He believed in donor/tissue donation. So his family honored his wish to enable

others live longer and healthier lives. His close friend Max Hattery suggested the memorial contributions could establish an endowment with the Northern Indiana Community Foundation.

It was established successfully through generous donations by Rex's friends and family.

"Athletics were very important to Rex, so his fund will be used to help youth in the community who are interested in sports," Juanita Mays says.

And through the Rex E. Mays Memorial Fund, Rex will continue to make a lasting impact far beyond anything he could have imagined