

James D. Wakefield Memorial Scholarship

— 1944-1967 —

The James D. Wakefield Memorial Scholarship was established by Dan and Victoria Hoffman Wakefield to honor their son Jim and to advance education of Lake Region State College students who demonstrate good character, a commitment to learning, and a zest for life.

James Daniel Wakefield was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, on October 30, 1944, and moved to Devils Lake, North Dakota, in 1946. Third of the eight Wakefield children, he attended St. Joseph School and was a newspaper boy, an altar boy, and a Boy Scout. As a student at Devils Lake High School, Jim was a letterman in football, hockey, and track.

After graduating in 1963, Jim attended Lake Region State College and then transferred to the University of North Dakota where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta, the University Ski Club, and the UND Flying Club. As a member of the Flying Club, Jim was instrumental in the founding of the UND chapter of Alpha Eta Rho, the national honorary society of aviation students. Alpha Eta Rho has played an important role in the growth of the UND Aviation Department which is now the Center for Aerospace Studies. The Phi Delta Theta newspaper said,

"Jim was a fierce competitor, whether it was in a college course, on the athletic field, or on the ski slopes." In Jim's memory, they named their library the James Wakefield Memorial Library.

After his graduation with a bachelor of philosophy in January of 1968, Jim joined his father at Wakefield Flight Service as a commercial pilot, licensed aerial applicator, and flight instructor. He was well known and liked throughout Devils Lake where his community involvement included active membership in the Council of the Knights of Columbus and Saint Joseph Catholic Church.

On June 23, 1967, while spraying southwest of Edmore, Jim's plane crashed. Badly burned, he was quickly pulled from the flaming wreckage by his younger brother, Tom, a real hero. Jim's father flew him to Rochester and four days later

flew him home to be buried in Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Devils Lake.

As James Wakefield's parents and brother Tom did, siblings Bob, Dick, Bill, Dan, Mary, and Jacqueline wish to remember Jim's extraordinary life, talent, and spirit. Therefore, this scholarship is established in his memory to encourage and further the achievements of others. ✨

