

## ***The Perseverance Scholarship***

**Linn County R-1 School District**

**Benefactors: Patrick F. & Freda (Head) McMillin**

**July 1, 2019**

### **Purpose:**

*This scholarship is to recognize and reward a student for perseverance, commitment and hard work while attending high school. The awarded student will have demonstrated dedication and discipline while overcoming and persevering adversarial real-life challenges.*

### **Objective:**

*To provide a worthy student with positive reinforcement and sense of accomplishment despite challenges and to provide the student an economic benefit towards education or technical training to enhance their ability to gain employment and be a contributing member of the community.*

### **Scholarship:**

*The selected student will be awarded a one-time scholarship of \$1,000 payable upon providing satisfactory evidence of enrollment and/or obligation to a university, college, technical school, business school or trade school. The award may be paid directly to the institution on behalf of the student or paid directly to the awarded student under conditions. The maximum scholarship is \$1,000 per student, per school year. It is committed for a 10-year period, commencing with the 2019-2020 school year and ending with the 2028-2029 school year, unless extended by Benefactors.*

### **Benefactors:**

*Patrick F. McMillin and Freda M. (Head) McMillin are graduates of Linn County R-1. They came from different environments and backgrounds but succeeded together by the strengths from lessons learned in Missouri.*

*Patrick McMillin was born in Kansas City, Missouri and left to escape the turmoil, riots and civil unrest. He moved to Browning to improve his life. He entered Linn County R-1 at the beginning of his sophomore year and lived with his father, who owned and operated the Irish Inn in Browning known as "the Beer Joint". Patrick assisted his elderly father after closing hours each night to clean and stock the beer coolers in preparation for the next day, for which he was disciplined and his grades were lowered. Patrick was a trained and accomplished musician and performed in area bars and music halls beginning at the age of 14. He was known as "the bar owner's son" with a questionable background. This did not deter him, and he wanted to prove his capability to the adults and community.*

*Freda (Head) McMillin was born in the Brookfield Hospital and raised on a farm with her parents, Carl and Lorene Head, and her siblings, Jerry, Gary, Roger and Rena, all of whom graduated from high school in Browning. Freda worked alongside her father and mother while operating their family farm northeast of Browning, including all the tasks associated with raising crops, livestock, poultry, haying, fencing, milking and gardening. It was common to see her, as a young girl, carrying large milk pails from their milk barn. Her father designated a small area known as "the bean patch" that was hers. Her father helped her plant, cultivate, and harvest the crop for her account. Then she had the same opportunity with one lamb, then one calf, then one cow. Her ledger recorded her income and expenses. She was raised with a strong work ethic, hard manual labor and enjoyed strong family support and values during her youth, which continues to this day. Freda was a member of a well-known, respected and reputable family.*

*Remarkably, the paths of Patrick & Freda crossed at Linn County R-1, and they developed a high school romance at 14-15 years of age. In spite of such different family backgrounds, their relationship grew and soon after graduation they were married at the Browning Baptist Church. They bought and moved into a small Browning home in the name of his father due to being underage. Supporting yourself in a small community is not easy, especially as a young teenage couple. Few or no jobs existed for a city kid and he was not a farmer. Patrick worked for \$1.65 per hour at the local Lumber Yard, played music 3 nights a week, boarded dogs, delivered mail, performed odd jobs and was on the underground sewer construction crew. Freda managed the house and finances, worked at the local uniform factory, offered sewing and mending services, waitressed, prepared and served meals to work crews, planted and tended to a large garden area and canned hundreds of jars of produce annually. Then, prior to reaching legal age, they used his fathers name to buy Browning Sundries/Liquor and operated it for 2 years. All before they were 21 years old.*

*During this period, they volunteered to serve their community. Pat was elected Mayor of Browning at 23 years old, and sought and secured several governmental grants for Browning. Freda became Treasurer of the local Baptist Church and assisted with Bible School.*

*While operating Browning Sundries, Patrick was presented with a real estate sales opportunity, which required specialized training. He enrolled in business and real estate courses and passed the exam. He then entered the real estate business while Freda managed their Browning business. Real Estate would end up being a lifetime career.*

*After 6 years, it became obvious that they had reached a plateau with their income and career. At 26 and 27 years old, Patrick & Freda made a lifetime decision and took a risk of moving. They packed their 3 children and belongings and moved from their home town 2,000 miles away to San Diego, California, the 6<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. Once in San Diego, Patrick was required to enroll again into a business school to obtain a California Real Estate License. Within 3 months, he secured the license. While Freda managed the children, household and finances, and offering babysitting services, Patrick worked 7 days a week to gain a footing in a highly competitive market while interest rates were at 16%. Within 6 months, he was a Top Producer. Over the next 30 years, Patrick & Freda took investment risks and eventually, the hard work and determination paid off. They are now classified by several financial firms as independently wealthy.*

*All 3 of their children are now college graduates, happily married, have children and own homes. They were all born in Missouri, but raised in Southern California, and remain proud of their Missouri roots maintaining the principles and culture. They enjoy traveling back home annually and remain close to their Missouri cousins.*

*It is for these reasons that Patrick & Freda establish this scholarship. They know the importance of encouraging a teenager as they enter adulthood, especially if they have endured hardship or adversarial conditions beyond their control. College is always preferred, but if college is not possible, a trade or business course may be a solution if given the chance.*

**Benefactors:**

Patrick & Freda McMillin  
14311 Vista Panorama  
Lakeside, California 92040  
619-443-5053

## ***The Perseverance Scholarship***

### **Application Process:**

- Candidates:** All Seniors at Linn County R-1
- Application Period:** January 1 - March 31
- Decision Date:** April 15
- Promotion:** Linn County R-1 Administration shall be responsible for promoting and announcing this Scholarship to insure that all students are informed.
- Selection Method:** Benefactor will accept applications by letter from students, teachers, administrators, clergy or any interested parties on behalf of a candidate. The letter shall include their name, age, address, graduation date, cumulative GPA, desired field-of-study or interest, and a brief paragraph outlining the history and basis for the scholarship request.
- If submitted by someone other than a scholarship candidate, the submission must include the name and address of the submitting party and their relationship to the candidate. Benefactor will evaluate each candidate and will select the recipient of The Perseverance Scholarship.
- If no applicants are received, the scholarship will be rescinded for that year, unless Benefactor elects to award the scholarship to a previous awarded candidate, at sole discretion of Benefactor.
- Min GPA Required:** 2.00
- Approved Schools:** Any post high school institution of higher learning or training, including a college, university, trade school, technical school or business school.
- Limit:** \$1,000 per candidate
- How paid:** Scholarship will be paid to a designated school on behalf of the awarded student or will be paid directly to the student upon verification that student has contractually enrolled in an approved institution or school.
- Deadline:** Awarded Candidate shall provide required documentation for payment within 1 year from graduation ceremony. After such date, the award is rescinded.
- Announcement:** The Benefactor will notify the Administration of Linn County R-1.
- Presentation:** To be announced at Linn County R-1 graduation ceremony by an individual approved by Benefactor.

Mail Application Letter to:

Patrick & Freda McMillin  
14311 Vista Panorama  
Lakeside, CA 92040