

Robert F. and Jean Cantell Pease Family Endowment



Jean Cantell Pease was born in the “boot hills” of Missouri and came to Westfield as a World War II war bride. She became active in the Cantell family grocery business and the Westfield community, especially the Westfield Riding Club. Raising her family was her priority and Jean was a very special mother to her five daughters: Claudia, Mary Beth, Pamela, Lynn, and Jeannie. William, Robert, and Steven completed her family of eight growing children. Sadly, Jean lost her son Robert Cantell in a tragic automobile accident in 1989.

Robert “Bob” Pease was born in Westfield and grew up on South Maple Street. He attended local schools and graduated from Westfield High School in 1946. Immediately following his graduation, he served his country at the end of World War II. Bob was in submarine squadron six in the Pacific side of the Panama Canal as a member of the United States Navy.

After his military service, Bob returned to Westfield and later attended Chrysler Corp. Dealer Sons School in Detroit, Michigan. He immediately became associated with the family automobile business, and eventually became president and treasurer of Pease Chrysler Plymouth. Bob was very active in the community and was a past president of the Westfield Rotary Club, Hampden County Auto Dealers Association, and Valley Sports Car Club. As a Rotary member, Bob was recognized with a Paul Harris Fellow Award. He was also a long time treasurer of the New England Chrysler Dealers Advertising Association, and was an active participant in several auto and aviation events. Bob was a corporator of the former Woronoco Savings Bank, and served many years on the Advisory Board of the former Third National Bank, which was later to be the Bank of New England in Westfield.

Bob was the father of three daughters, Cynthia, Donna, and Andrea. Before his daughters were grown, he decided to buy out his brother’s portion of their car dealership. With the help and support of his close friend and companion, Jean Cantell, he began construction of a new automobile dealership on East Main Street in Westfield. Bob and Jean married in 1983, and



decided that Florida would be their home of choice. The dealership was sold prior to their move to Florida.

Bob and Jean were too active to be retired so Bob became an associate of the Bill Bryan Auto Group, and Jean became involved with Weight Watchers and the Waterman Hospital Auxiliary. Jean maintained her proud connection to Westfield by becoming the co-host, along with Al and Pearl Tonelli, for the annual Westfield Day in central Florida. Bob became a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association in Florida.

Jean passed away in February 2007. Upon the sudden death of Jean, Bob's family urged him to return to Westfield to be closer to them.

As a tribute to Bob's late wife, Jean Cantell Pease, he established this scholarship in 2010. Our extended family would like to assist a young student to go on with their future education. It is our belief that there will always be a better Westfield if we all work together as a community family.

Written by: Robert F. Pease
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