



Charles W. & Marion L. Whitney Trust Scholarship

This scholarship is given in honor of Charles and Marion Whitney, lifelong residents of the Westfield community. Charles was born in Westfield in 1926 to George and Edith (Cummings) Whitney. He was the brother of Priscilla, Barbara and Herbert Whitney. He attended local schools, graduating from Westfield Trade School in 1943 when the school was located on Bartlett Street. In 1924 Marion was born in Hartford, CT to George and Esther (Anderson) Lunn. She was a 1942 graduate of Bulkeley High School in Hartford. Both served our country during World War II. Marion served in the US Navy WAVES; Charles, a Sergeant in the Army, served in the Pacific. Both were members of American Legion Post 124 in Westfield.

After the war, Charles and Marion met while roller skating at Babb's Skating Rink in Suffield, CT. In 1949 they married, moved to Granville Road in Westfield and soon started a family that would grow to include three boys: Robert, Stuart and Carl. Together, they would eventually be blessed with daughters-in-law, four grandchildren and later, great-grandchildren.

Their lives were filled with family, work, and church. Charles spent 40 years working for the New England Telephone Company, now known as Verizon. As a lineman, he climbed countless telephone poles during all hours of the day and night, rain, snow or beating sun, using spikes and a pole belt before the advent of the bucket truck. Marion helped start the Westfield Assembly #96, Order of the Rainbow Girls and served for many years as its Mother Advisor. In the Order of the Eastern Star, Marion was a Past Matron and a 50-year member of Golden Chapter #5. As a member of the United Church of Christ, Second Congregational, Marion served as Sunday School Superintendent and Church Secretary for 20 years before retiring in 1989. Charles served first as an usher, then as a deacon for numerous years at the church.

Soulmates, long before the term was known, Charles and Marion shared 54 years of marriage before Charles' passing in 2003. Marion established this scholarship trust in her husband's honor in 2008. She always took great pride in personally presenting his scholarship to a deserving student. In late 2019, Marion passed peacefully during the night at age 95. Together they valued family, service and community. Throughout their lives they took special interest in their children, those in the neighborhood and family members. Extended family was important and outings with the Whitney's held new and unique adventures and surprises! This scholarship is just part of the legacy they left behind.

Written by: Stuart Whitney
May 14, 2023