

## John J. Dowd Scholarship Memorial Endowment



Story written by: John J. Dowd August 10, 2012

John passed away on January 3, 2018

People who read this story deserve a few credits in Ancient History! I graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1948. I was accepted at Westfield State Teachers' College on Court Street (now City Hall). Our tuition was \$75 a year. On every Christmas vacation, I worked for the Westfield Post Office to earn my January tuition (\$37.50). Between my junior and senior years, I worked on a 24 inch, natural gas pipeline. We installed shut-off valves every 10 miles from Albany, NY to Boston. I had to move to Worcester and Framingham. I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in June 1952. I also received Teaching Certificate #1011.

After graduation I was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

I served with the Army Engineers in Yokohama, Japan. We had a huge supply depot. We sent construction equipment and spare parts to our Combat Engineers in Korea. I was eligible for the G.I. Bill. I was paid \$140 a month to go to school.

I earned my Master of Science Degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I did my course work in 1954 and 1955. I finished my research paper and took my oral exam in the summer of 1955. I also worked on the new Massachusetts Turnpike. I was a driller's helper and a dynamite man from the Westfield River to Blandford. I graduated from UMASS in February 1956. I earned my Sixth Year Diploma from the University of Connecticut at Storrs. I did my course work in 1955 and 1956. I finished my research paper and took my oral exam in the summer. I graduated from UCONN in June 1957.

In September 1956 I began my teaching career in Springfield. I taught grade 6 at Washington School for 5 years. I moved to Westfield Junior High School in 1962. I taught mathematics in grades 7, 8, and 9. Later at South Middle School, I taught mathematics in grades 7 and 8.

Throughout my teaching career, my goal was to turn out the smartest kids in town. I was all business. "Today is Halloween? I didn't know that. Yes, you will have homework today." "Mr. Dowd, why do we have homework every Friday?" "Because there are 40 Fridays in a school year, and I am not going to give you 40 days off!" "Bring that calculator up here. I will give it back to you on Monday." Obviously I was not going to turn out the happiest kids in town! But the kids, God bless them, went along with me and did what I wanted them to do. I retired in June 1992. I taught an estimated 4,500 students in 35 years.

I gave my shares of Westfield Financial to the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of Westfield in 2012. The generous dividends will be used for scholarships. I want to help some students to pay for their very expensive education. In my retirement years, I am proud to be part of an organization that is turning out THE SMARTEST KIDS IN TOWN!

I hope I didn't make myself into a "Superman." I was preparing for a promotion to principal, but I never applied for a promotion.

If I get paid to go to college, I go. If a good job opens up, I work. I was made that way.

John J. Dowd died January 3, 2018 but his memory continues in his community of Westfield through the scholarship he endowed that is still being awarded by CSF Westfield Dollar for Scholars to Westfield students.