

Parker Family Endowment Scholarship

Written by: Jim & Joanne Parker, February 25, 2016



Joanne and Jim Parker established the Parker Family Endowment Scholarship because they wished to give back to the Westfield community and help local students further their education.

Jim is a 1967 graduate of UMASS Amherst. After graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was commissioned an Infantry Officer in 1968. He served as an infantry platoon leader with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Discharged from active duty in 1970, they moved from Georgia to Massachusetts where Jim joined his family's plumbing business.

In 1972 they moved to Westfield when Jim accepted a sales position with the

Proctor & Gamble Distributing Company. His sales territory encompassed Vermont, Western Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. When their daughters entered school, Joanne began working at Mestek, Inc.'s corporate office in Westfield. She remained there for 34 years before retiring.

Jim and Joanne built a home in the rural Mundale section of Westfield in 1985. Their relocation to this area prompted their involvement in environmental issues. This area, surrounded by conservation land, is home to many vernal pools inhabited by amphibians and other endangered wildlife.

In the late 1990's, Jim started his own sales and marketing company contracting with small independent manufacturers to promote their products. Beginning with the New England market, he eventually expanded the scope of the business to New York and New Jersey.

After serving a total of 29 years in the military, Jim retired from the Army Reserves as Lt. Colonel in 1996. During this same year he received his Business Management degree from Westfield State College.

Both of their daughters, Westfield High School graduates, received CSF Westfield Dollars for Scholars awards in the late 1980's and early 1990's. The Parker's are happy to establish the Parker Family Endowment Scholarship and look forward to hearing about the educational successes of the recipients of this scholarship.