

DONOR STORIES

ROBERT & JANE TITUS “Robert and Jane Titus Fund”

On July 30, 1920, Robert Titus was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, however, this was not home for long. After his birth Bob’s family moved to Evanston, Illinois. This is where Bob spent his childhood and graduated from high school. Bob, unlike many other students at that time, was fortunate to attend college at the University of Michigan.

The 1930s and 1940s were two decades that were unimaginable and unpredictable. The future of the young men who were drafted to serve in World War II was unforeseeable. Bob was fortunate to be stationed in Tampa, Florida, as a Captain during the war instead of serving overseas. It was there that he met a young woman named Jane Lea. The couple married shortly after the war ended.

Don Titus, Bob’s brother, was living and working in Cedar Falls at the time. In 1946, Bob and Jane Lea moved to Waterloo where the brothers decided to create Titus Manufacturing Corporation. Titus Manufacturing was a company that produced air conditioners for heating and cooling units for various industrial buildings. The company had several branches located throughout the country including Texas, Florida, Oklahoma and Arizona. Titus Manufacturing was also licensed to work in Europe and Japan. Bob was the vice President and treasurer of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls branch.

On March 17, 1948, Bob and Jane Lea became the proud parents of their first child, Janie. A few years later the family was blessed again with the birth of their second child, Sally, born May 7, 1952. Bob and Jane raised two

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very driven children who set high goals for themselves, just as their father had set for himself. Janie graduated from Colorado College and later received her Ph.D. in counseling from St. Louis University. She is currently working in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has two children of her own. Sally studied at the University of Iowa and went on to receive her Master’s Degree from Drake University in Public Administration. She is currently a Deputy Director in the Department of Human Services for the State of Iowa.

During their years in Waterloo, Bob and Jane Lea discovered a strong desire to be involved with the community and to help others. Bob became involved with the Iowa College Foundation, Chamber of Commerce and a member of the vestry at St. Marks Episcopal Church. Jane Lea found herself volunteering at the Library, Waterloo Center for the Arts and with Junior League of Waterloo/Cedar Falls.



ROBERT TITUS

After living a good life and raising their children in Waterloo, Bob and Jane Lea made the decision to sell Titus Manufacturing Corporation in the 1970s to Koppers Company headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The warm climate and coastline of Sarasota, Florida, influenced their decision to retire there shortly after the sale of the family business.

Bob Titus passed away July 29, 1997, one day shy of his 77th birthday. Jane passed away over 14 years later on November 8, 2011, four days before her 92nd birthday.

Waterloo provided a happy home to the Titus family, a place where they built a successful business and raised their children. Even though the couple retired to Sarasota, their roots remained in the Cedar Valley, influencing their decision to establish a fund with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. In Jane Lea's words, "We had a good, happy life in Waterloo and felt that establishing a fund with the Community Foundation would not only be a memorial for Bob, but a way to return some of the good we had received from the community."

***Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.*