

DONOR STORIES

WENDELL L. KOCH

“FFE Wendell Koch West High Scholarship Fund”

Wendell L. Koch was born December 7, 1927 in rural Bremer County, Iowa, the son of Rudy and Elsa (Hue) Koch. He had one brother, Curtis. Wendell died on September 28, 2008.

He graduated from Waterloo West High School with the Class of 1946 and from Iowa State Teacher’s College in Cedar Falls (now the University of Northern Iowa) in 1951.



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Wendell worked as an engineer. Following his retirement in 1976, he owned and operated a woodworking business in Cedar Rapids for many years. Wendell served his country in the US Army from 1946-1948. He was a member of Becker Chapman American Legion Post #138 in Waterloo.

“Wendell was a proud, patriotic American who was not afraid of adventure.”

Wendell loved to go fishing and worked as a fishing guide on the Mississippi River for a time. He enjoyed photography, traveling and had visited every continent except for Antarctica during his life. Wendell was a proud, patriotic American who was not afraid of adventure. He even celebrated his 75th birthday with a skydiving adventure.

Wendell left \$80,000 in his will to establish scholarship funds for Waterloo East High School and West High School graduates. His family chose to use the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa to carry out his wishes. As a result, \$40,000 was added to the existing East High Scholarship Fund endowment at the Foundation, and \$40,000 was used to start Wendell Koch West High Scholarship Fund at the Foundation as a permanent endowment to provide scholarships to local students in his name.

Curtis Koch said about his brother, “Wendell was a graduate of West High, and because he wished to help others with their education, he chose to do so by remembering them in this way.” He continued by saying, “In carrying out his wishes, the Community Foundation was chosen as the most appropriate way to do it.”

Wendell’s legacy will live on as local students receive financial support for college in his name forever.

CHILDREN

John Koch and wife Monica of Iowa City, Iowa

GRANDCHILDREN

David Koch