

Robert and Pansy Alcorn Memorial Scholarship

Type:	Yearly gift
Amount:	Determined yearly by donor (typically \$500)
# Offered:	One per year
Deadline:	Refer to Allen College Institutional Scholarship Application
Established:	2019
Special Criteria:	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), enrolled full-time, minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, demonstrated church involvement. Preference may be given to a graduate of a Black Hawk county high school.

The Robert and Pansy Alcorn Memorial Scholarship is given by son, Allen Alcorn, and daughter, Shari Cary, in memory of their parents. Robert passed away on June 22, 2018, and Pansy followed closely behind on November 19, 2018.

Robert and Pansy had a beautiful love story, including meeting on a blind date in 1970, set up by Robert's coworker and Pansy's sister. They both knew it was something special from that very first date. Unfortunately, marriage was delayed when Robert was drafted into the army during the time of the Vietnam War. They survived a long-distance relationship between Iowa and North Carolina until Robert could wait no longer. He proposed over Christmas 1971, and they were married soon after on February 5, 1972. They settled in North Carolina, right outside Fort Bragg in Fayetteville. Shortly thereafter, Robert was honorably discharged from the army, and the couple returned to Iowa. Robert returned to his job at Schoitz Engineering in Waterloo, eventually retiring in 2010, after 44 years with the company.

Robert and Pansy had a love of children and wanted to start a family right away. Their prayers were answered when Allen was born near the end of 1972. Shari, born in 1974, followed closely behind. Unfortunately, also in 1974, Robert was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

Robert's diagnosis with diabetes was his introduction to the healthcare system on a regular basis. Over his 50 years with the illness, he became familiar with many different specialties, including endocrinology, nephrology, optometry, dermatology, and neurology. Within these specialties, much of Robert's care was provided by nurse practitioners and registered nurses.

Robert and Pansy shared many common interests, including God and family as their top priorities. Gardening was a big part of their spring and summer with Robert doing the planting, weeding, and harvesting, while Pansy did the freezing or canning so that they could enjoy the produce throughout the year. Robert picked up golf in his later years and enjoyed family time with his children and grandchildren on the golf course. He was also known as the person who could fix anything.

Pansy was a third-grade teacher up until the time she married Robert. Following that, she used her talents to teach her children and grandchildren and ensured that they were well prepared for school. She enjoyed sewing, baking, playing the piano, and spending time with family.

In 2014, Robert and Pansy moved to Friendship Village due to Robert's declining health and their onset of dementia. During their four years at Friendship Village, care was primarily managed by nurses. Nurses were the individuals who kept them safe, clean, well fed, and as comfortable as possible. For this reason, following their deaths, it was an easy decision for their family to fund a scholarship to support nursing education. Pansy's teaching background also contributed to this decision. The family hopes this scholarship will help other individuals complete their education and become proficient at providing optimal care to their patients.