Joe W. and Mildred McFerrin Sanders Endowed Scholarship

A native of Benjamin, Joe served in the Army Air Corps for five years during World War II, serving as flight engineer with a crew assigned to patrol the Panama Canal area. He then joined the Texas Highway Department as an engineering aide and worked there until his retirement.

A Madison County, Arkansas native, Mildred completed her Bachelor’s degree at West Texas State University and was a teacher in Panhandle, Plainview, and Kress.

The couple met on a Greyhound bus as Joe was returning home on furlough and Mildred was visiting her parents. As the bus was full, Joe placed his coat on the top step of the bus entryway and the couple shared a seat for the entire bus ride, visiting all the way to their destination. The trip sparked a love that lasted 55 years. The two married in July 1946.

The Sanders’ were longtime members of Parkview Baptist Church in Plainview, where Joe served as a deacon and helped design the current facility. They shared a passion for education, teaching and the public school, and it is fitting that this endowed scholarship be established in their name to assist young men and women seeking to follow a calling as a public school teacher.