The John D. and Phyllis Sanders Endowed Scholarship

John D. (Jay) and Phyllis Sanders accumulated few material goods in over 50 years of marriage, but bequeathed to us, their children, considerable moral, ethical, and intellectual wealth. This scholarship honors their legacy.

Jay was born in 1914 in Benjamin, Texas, and came of age during the Great Depression. The economic realities of a large family striving to keep body and soul together in dust blown West Texas forced him to leave home as a teenager to seek work in the Northwestern United States. These events shaped his lifelong values about work and money.

Phyllis was born in 1917 in Howe, Texas, in slightly better economic circumstances. The untimely death of her father required that she enter the workforce upon graduation from high school instead of pursuing her dreams of college.

Jay and Phyllis understood that education was the key to a better future for us, their sons. They encouraged us to excel in school, bought us books, and searched for learning opportunities in everyday living. We were expected to attend college. And, while they did not have the financial means to send us, they had great faith that God would provide the way. He did.

Thanks to them, each of us graduated from Wayland Baptist University with degrees in mathematics. Through this scholarship in their memory, we wish to help others do the same.

John Theodore (Ted) Sanders
Thomas Jay (Tom) Sanders
David Gene Sanders