

Richard, LeFern and Peggy Soldner Scholarship

The Richard, LeFern and Peggy Soldner Scholarship was formed to help students from the Cowden Herrick school district further their education which will better prepare them for success as they enter the world.

Richard and LeFern Soldner lived in Cowden most of their adult life where they owned and operated the Ging Grain Elevator (now Tate and Lyle), attended First Christian Church and were active in their community. Their daughter Peggy grew up in Cowden and graduated from Cowden Herrick High School.

The Soldners all shared a commitment to God, family and community. They believed that education is a way to improve one's quality of life and prepare them to better serve God, their family and give back to the community.

Individually each of the Soldners were impressive, collectively they were inspirational. They were exceptional individuals who shared a common respect for education. We are proud to pass this passion on to future generations. They were all from our community, yet their impact reached far beyond their Shelby County roots.



Rhea LaFern Soldner 10/15/1923 - 05/18/2014

LeFern pursued education and a career at a time when most women were relegated to the home raising families. Her family did not support these efforts yet her strength and determination prevailed. She was one of the only woman in General Motors to lead district accounting operations. She was a stylish, yet humble and kind woman who was loved by all who knew her.

Richard Soldner 11/01/1931 - 5/11/2016

Richard conducted business in a kind, respectful, generous manor. He did not always have to get the best deal in every transaction. In the end his business approach was the most successful of all.

Peggy Soldner Drew 11/15/1960 - 09/15/2015

Peggy was a successful business woman working her way to executive positions in the male dominated pharmaceutical business. She was a world traveler who visited all of the continents. In her later years she became an inspirational figure to many as she showed us how to live with cancer and how to leave this world gracefully.