



Winchester Alumni Association
Rep. William "Pete" Cunningham Scholarship

Dear applicant:

Please find below the criteria for the Winchester Alumni Association scholarship. We have attached some information about Professor Graham because each applicant must demonstrate their knowledge of him during the interview.

It is important that you complete the application and mail it by the deadline. All incomplete applications will be automatically disqualified. The scholarship is \$500.00

Criteria

G.P.A. must be 2.5 or higher

Three letters of recommendations

Documentation of Community Service (form is part of the application)

Copy of transcript

Recent Photo

Interview (Interview will be scheduled by the interview committee after the application is submitted.)

Deadline April 4, 2020

Note: To ensure that your application is completed, please use the check list before you mail the application.

Check list

- () Three letters of recommendation
- () Community Service Form
- () Copy of Transcript (GPA)
- () Photo (wallet size if possible)

Mail to -Winchester Alumni Association/ P O Box 1515/Monroe, NC 28111

Honoring A Life & Legacy of Service



The Honorable William "Pete" Cunningham

November 7, 1929 - December 21, 2010

12:00 Noon

Tuesday, December 28, 2010

First Baptist Church-West, 1801 Oaklawn Ave, Charlotte, NC 28216

Obituary

The Honorable William "Pete" Cunningham was born November 7, 1929, to the late Mrs. Jonsie Patterson and Mr. John Wallace of Monroe, North Carolina. He departed this life at home on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Cunningham was married to Mrs. Carla Rorie Cunningham in 2006. He is the father of five children: William "Ronnie" Cunningham (Penny) of Charlotte, North Carolina; Peter Cunningham (Tabitha) of Dallas, North Carolina; Khristina Cunningham of Charlotte; Gary Cunningham (deceased); and Kenneth Cunningham (deceased). He is also the step-father of KaMesha Rorie of Atlanta, Georgia and Kyle Rorie of Charlotte. He has eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren, a "Mother-in-Law" Helen McEachin, of Charlotte and a host of other relatives and many special life-long friends.

Mr. Cunningham left home in his teenage years to join the Army. He was in the Third Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. He later returned to Monroe and graduated from Winchester Avenue School in 1945. He attended night school at Johnson C. Smith University and graduated in 1956 with a Bachelors of Arts in Business Law. He would remain an active alumni of both Winchester Avenue School and Johnson C. Smith University.

In 1966 he enlisted into the Navy serving as a Radioman 1st Class on the USS Barracuda stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. After 20 years of honorable service, he retired from the military in 1986.

After his retirement from the Navy, Mr. Cunningham embarked on numerous and diverse entrepreneurial occupations. He sold insurance for North Carolina Mutual; he owned Pete's Used Car Lot; he owned a gas station; and briefly operated a restaurant. Additionally, he was the President and Co-owner of Cunningham and Hatchett Associates, a personnel agency. As a real-estate investor, he became the sole proprietor of the Historic Excelsior Club in 1988-2006.

Mr. Cunningham understood the importance of service to the community. He used his talents, resources, creativity and skills to either found or co-found organizations that still today impact the lives of individuals in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Those organizations include: The Charlotte Business League, the Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg (BPC), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His active status with the NAACP in the 1950's and 60's propelled him to become a life member, where he continued to advocate for fairness and justice for African-Americans.

As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Mr. Cunningham continuously advocated for Veterans throughout his life. His lifelong efforts extended to other organizations that sought to advocate for senior citizens, the mentally disabled, and children. However, finding ways to help underprivileged children was the issue closest to his heart.

It was his compassion for children that led Mr. Cunningham to become an active member of the Anita Stroud Foundation for more than 20 years until his passing. During his tenure, he served as the chairman of its volunteer board for several years during the 1990's. He later founded the Excelsior Club Humanity Organization (ECHO) out of his commitment and dedication to the Anita Stroud Foundation.

Spiritually grounded, Mr. Cunningham was a member of First Baptist Church-West where he served on the Board of Directors. He was also a faithful attendee of the FBC-W Bible Study.

Obituary

In 1986 he ran for political office for the North Carolina General Assembly State House and won! This "win" would initiate 21 years of service to the people of North Carolina in general and to the people of the Mecklenburg County in particular. Mr. Cunningham was the longest serving member of Mecklenburg County legislative delegation to Raleigh. He served as a member of the North Carolina House from 1987 – 2008, a representative of the 107th District; he was a member of the Legislative Black Caucus from 1987 – 2008; he served as Minority Whip of the House from 1995 – 1996; and as an Ex-officio Member to all Committees from 2002 – 2008. He would continue his legacy of service by working with Governors Jim Hunt and Mike Easley to bring about diversity in hiring practices for the state of North Carolina.

Throughout his long and distinguished career of service and advocacy, Mr. Cunningham received numerous awards for his work. Among them are: the Certificate of Appreciation Award, Anita Stroud Foundation; the Leadership and Public Service Award, North Carolina A&T State University; the Certificate of Appreciation Award, Northwood Estates Community Organization; the Distinguished Service Award, North Carolina Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome; Minority Business Development Service Award; Certificate of Appreciation Award, Mecklenburg Council of Senior Citizens; Leadership Award, The Congress of National Black Churches, Inc.; the Silver Award, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Certificate of Appreciation Award, Feed the Children; the Certificate of Dedication Award, North Carolina Public Education; the Leadership and Dedication Award, the State of North Carolina; the Benevolent Advocate of Healthcare Award, Old North State Medical Society; and the Pinnacle Award, The Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Someone once said, "A legacy is what we leave outside ourselves." We can say Mr. William "Pete" Cunningham has left a legacy. He was dedicated to causes and charities that benefited others less fortunate than he. He was a servant of the common man; anyone could reach out to him and he would listen and assist. His family and friends knew that he was dependable and loyal. Because of his hard work, sense of responsibility, and service, many individuals here in Mecklenburg County and across the State of North Carolina benefitted. Even in his final days, Mr. Cunningham continued to be a shoulder for others to lean on. Though he is no longer on this physical plane, his legacy shall live on forever.



WINCHESTER AVENUE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

(Print in black/blue ink or type)

Data Sheet

Name _____

First

Middle

Last

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

County

Home Address _____

Street

City

State

ZIP Code

Home Telephone Number (____) _____

Mother's Name _____

First

Middle

Last

Address _____

Street

City

State

ZIP Code

Employer _____

Father's Name _____

First

Middle

Last

Address _____

Street

City

State

ZIP Code

Employer _____

Name of High School _____ Graduation Date _____

College you prefer to attend _____

Anticipated field of study (Career Plans) _____

Notification of Acceptance

College(s)/University(ies) from which you have received acceptance

_____	_____
_____	_____

High School Activities

Extracurricular Activities/Club Membership/Offices held

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Honors Received

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Community Activities (May include church activities)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Employment: List employment during high school for which you were paid.

_____	_____
_____	_____

Please designate beside each activity, office, or honor, the year involved; Ninth Grade (1)
Tenth Grade (2), Eleventh Grade (3), Twelfth Grade (4).

Example: Student Council (1) (2), Class Secretary (2) (4), All-Conference Tennis (3) (4)

Financial Aid/Scholarship(s)

List all financial aid, including scholarships that you have received. Do not include aid from your parents or guardian.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

References: List the names of three (3) adults to whom you plan to ask for a recommendation.

School Reference: Name _____
Address _____

Community Leader: Name _____
Address _____

Other: Name _____
Address _____

Mail Data Sheet/Application Form, High School Transcript, Personal Statement and recommendations to: Scholarship Chairperson, Winchester Alumni Association, P. O. Box 1515, Monroe, NC 28111. Mail all materials before _____

If you questions, please contact Robert Heath @ 704 608 3824 or heathrl62@yahoo.com

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please state, in your own words and in your own handwriting, why you believe that you deserve to be the recipient of this scholarship. Please limit your statement to 250 words or less.

I certify that all information given in this application is accurate.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Community Service Form

Type of Service _____

Description of Service

Verified by _____ Title _____ Date _____

Signature

Type of Service _____

Description of Service _____

Verified by _____ Title _____ Date _____

Signature

You may add sheets if needed.