

WARREN AND ADALINE KOLEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Warren and Adaline Kolen were lifelong members of the South Coast community. Born to immigrant parents they learned at a young age that success came through hard work.

Warren graduated from Marshfield in 1936. He was a 3-year letterman and was chosen as the captain of the team his senior year. He excelled at sports and was also a member of the 19535 MHS basketball team that went to state. Warren was proud to have briefly held the free throw record at MHS once sinking 92 out of 100 shots.

Adaline graduated from North Bend High School in 1937 as the class salutatorian at the age of 16. Though scholastically inclined, her family lacked the resources that would allow her to further her education. Higher education was a privilege few could afford on the heels of the Great Depression.

Upon graduation both Warren and Adaline went to work to help support their families. Over the years Adaline worked various secretarial jobs for banks, attorneys, and lumber mills.

Warren, like his father before him, was a longshoreman on the Coos Bay waterfront. In pursuit of alternate career opportunities Warren attended the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute in Chicago where he learned skills that would prove invaluable in his later career.

With war raging in Europe and with the likelihood of American involvement the U.S. Congress initiated a military Draft. In February 1941 Warren had the unlucky distinction to be the first man drafted out of Coos County for a 1-year Army commitment. Two months shy of completing his service Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and instead of coming home in February 1942 Warren found himself on the first ship out of San Francisco headed to the Pacific theatre. He spent 4 and a half years in the Army and just shy of 3 continuous years as a combat infantryman overseas. He reached the rank of Tech Sergeant and was awarded numerous medals including a Bronze Star for his service.

Warren was a co-owner of Automatic Sales, the precursor of the current Vend West Services.

As a lifetime member, and past president, of the Coos Bay Lions Club, Warren was presented the Lions Club International Melvin Jones Fellow Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Services. Adaline, as a President of the Lioness Club worked in support of the Lions Club activities.

Adaline, like many women of her time, was a dedicated mother, wife, and homemaker. Supporting her extended family was always one of her greatest joys. They enjoyed traveling, golfing, gardening, and community involvement.

They were married for 52 years and one of their proudest accomplishments was to have their two daughters be the first in their family to graduate college. One Beaver and one Duck.

Warren and Adaline believed in the value of continuing education beyond high school and the opportunities that a post high school education could provide.