Don Wolaver loved golf. He loved it for more than 50 years. That love for the sport has led to the creation of the Donna and Donald Lee Wolaver Memorial Golf Scholarship Fund through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. The Fund will be used to provide scholarships for students who participated on high school golf teams.

"Golf is a very personal sport," said Donna Wolaver, who married Don in 1960. "You have to give a lot of self to do well, you have to practice, love competition, follow the rules. The majority of kids on golf teams are good students." Don Wolaver's love affair with golf started early as a child living on Cook Street in Springfield. His mother would often send him to Pasfield Park to play golf while she taught music lessons. It blossomed after a head injury during a sandlot football game forced him to give up other sports. "Golf became his passion," said Wolaver. "Don and I spent 30-some years going places and playing wonderful golf courses. Those golf clubs covered a lot of territory."

Don graduated from Bradley University with a degree in civil engineering and spent 38 years working for the Illinois Department of Transportation. "That's the perfect profession for people who like to play golf," Donna Wolaver said. The passion continued through years of league play at Lincoln Greens and Jacksonville Country Club. The Wolavers played courses across the country from Pinehurst in North Carolina to a multitude of courses near Scottsdale, Arizona. Following a trip to play golf in Arizona in the winter of 1995, where he was
bothered by shoulder pain, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. He spent the next few months rehabbing with the hope of returning to the golf course before the weather ended the season.

"By the end of the year he had gone out with buddies and played golf," Donna Wolaver said. "Golf was one of the reasons for him working to recover and get back." He passed away in December of 1996. A memorial fund was created upon his death. It was originally used to help purchase new equipment for high school teams and other youth golfers. In 2011, Donna decided to move the fund to the Community Foundation in order to create greater formality and set up the scholarship program. Donna passed away in December of 2012, at which time her name was added to the name of the scholarship.