He served until the end, and his ideals continue to prosper.

Paul Gage served as mayor of Vienna, Illinois for 31 years until his death in November 2002. It is in the memory of his longtime activism that the Paul V. Gage Community Service Scholarship Fund has been established through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

“It’s intended to perpetuate a little of his ideal of volunteerism among the youth of the community,” said Dixie Gage, who is Paul Gage’s daughter-in-law. “That’s what Paul did his whole life and that’s what he believed in.”

The fund was established shortly after Paul Gage’s death, and was handled through the Vienna school district. Steve and Dixie Gage recently chose to move the fund to Community Foundation.

The fund provides a scholarship to a senior at Vienna High School to be used for post-high school education. The scholarship recipient will be one that shines out of school as much as in school.

“We don’t necessarily want the straight-A student. We are looking for more the well-rounded student,” Dixie Gage said. “We are looking for a student that has worked in community service, not for pay, and has plans to continue to volunteer.”

A veteran of World War II who served as part of the D-Day invasion force at Normandy, Paul Gage’s legacy in Vienna is lengthy. He was mayor upon the location of two prisons in the community, the creation of a local baseball diamond and several other community projects.

“He was always doing things to help his community,” Dixie Gage said. “Most would say he went above and beyond.”

Steve Gage and two representatives from Vienna High School will select the honoree each year.

Although Vienna is outside of the typical service area for the Community Foundation, Steve and Dixie Gage reside in the area. Steve Gage learned of the Community Foundation through his involvement in the Springfield South Rotary Club.