Fund Provides Scholarship for Vocational Students

John Dalhaus wasn’t going to join the United States Marine Corps. He wanted to go to Ranken Technical College. As his senior year neared at Litchfield High School, he realized there weren’t scholarships for students wanting to attend a vocational school. Instead, he joined the Marines in the summer of 1985 on a delayed program, and upon graduation in 1986 he left for boot camp.

Dalhaus never had a chance to go to vocational school, as he died following a traffic accident in 1990 while serving in support of “Operation Desert Shield.” In his memory, his mother Judy Keith Dalhaus in consultation with his sister Lynda Preston established the Sgt. John R. Dalhaus Memorial Scholarship Fund in his honor. The scholarship goes to a senior graduating from Litchfield High School who wants to attend a vocational school.

“I wanted him to be remembered for helping others. His legacy 25 years later is helping someone every year,” Dalhaus said.

The scholarship was recently moved to the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln with plans to give a $1,000 scholarship each year. Dalhaus believes the scholarship fits her son’s giving personality.

“He was very giving. He would have given a buddy his last penny,” Dalhaus said of his son. “He was fearless – a good, loving, fun-natured kid. He enjoyed life.”