

ABOUT THE FUND

Bobby Secret (1942-2017) was a lifelong resident of Clarksburg, West Virginia. He was born in 1942, the son of Patrick and Mary Secret. As a youth, it became evident that he was blessed with extraordinary athletic gifts. He ran faster, threw harder, hit baseballs further, and had an uncanny ability of being where would-be tacklers were not, as he dazzled on the football field.

As he moved on to high school, his athletic exploits became renowned. At Washington Irving High School (WI), Bobby was a four sports phenom. He excelled at football, basketball, track, and baseball. As a senior, he was named All-State in both football and basketball. The Morgantown Touchdown Club named Bobby runner-up as the West Virginia Amateur Athlete of the Year in 1960. Jerry West, who was a pretty good basketball player at West Virginia University, edged Bobby for first place.



At WI, Bobby did more than excel at sports. He excelled in class leadership, community service and scholarship. He found the time to be elected Class Treasurer as a Junior and Senior, to be Treasurer of the Senior Executive Committee, to attend Boy's State, and to be a member of Hi-Y and serve as WI Secretary and District and State Vice-President of Hi-Y. He earned a certificate of permanent membership in Athena, an achievement requiring a B average or better for five semesters, and earned membership in the National Honor Society, an organization honoring students who have distinguished themselves with exemplary leadership, character, service and scholarship. Bobby was honored as one of the top twenty-five seniors in the Class of 1960.

Bobby attended Notre Dame University on a football scholarship and finished his playing career at Salem College, where he earned a mathematics degree. He later received a Master's degree from WVU.

Bobby parlayed his love for sports into a successful coaching career, including a stint at Victory High School and ten years as head coach of Clarksburg Post 13 Baseball. Coaching ignited in him a passion for teaching youth. As he engaged his students, he shaped their lives with more than academic excellence, teaching such matters as leadership, high moral character, and community engagement. He worked many years at the Salem Correctional Center for Youth, where he nurtured troubled youths from despair to self-worth.

Bobby Secret was transcendent in matters of the heart. His love for his family was unwavering. He was a man of great faith, which was evident in his daily walk. Everyone he met was his friend, and none were less. Bobby lived on this earth to help others, and always thought he should do more

When Bobby died, a note was received by the family from a young man he had taken in. Here are some excerpts:

“My heart is deeply saddened by the passing of ‘Seeks’, the man who took honor in calling me son. This man gave his life to make sure that my life was better. When I had no one to turn to, the man was always there, loving me, believing in me, and pushing me to keep fighting for my future. There are so many lessons this man taught me, but the greatest lesson of all was... how to love. You were my angel, my friend, and my Pops. So, I salute you, and I say, well done.”

Such a touching tribute and just one of many. What more can be said? Bobby Lee Secret...“Seeks”... our friend. We thank you for a life well lived!



Bobby Lee Secret Memorial Scholarship

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Applicants must be a resident of Harrison County, WV, and a graduating high school senior from a Harrison County high school. Alternatively, Harrison County students may qualify with successful fulfillment of the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) or General Equivalency Diploma (GED). The applicant must demonstrate academic excellence, outstanding moral character, leadership and community engagement, and athletic achievement. Preference will be given to those with outstanding athletic accomplishments as evidenced by the number of years of varsity level sport participation, athletic awards received, and team captain roles. The applicant must be accepted at an institution of higher learning, either a college/university or a technical school. Must provide at least one recommendation from a fellow student, school faculty, or community leader. This is a one-time, non-renewable award.

To apply, please visit www.ycfwv.org/scholarships.

HOW CAN I DONATE?

The scholarship is managed by Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia, Inc. (YCF). YCF is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization eligible to receive donations.

Any individual, organization, or business can make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund. Donations are accepted in the form of checks, credit cards, stocks and through bequests. To donate online, click on the "Donate" link on the YCF website, www.ycfwv.org. You may enter a name of a specific fund during the checkout process. Alternatively, donations by check may be made payable to "YCF" and mailed to the address below. Checks should include the name of the fund in the memo line.

For more information, call 304-296-3433 or email info@ycfwv.org.