



## **Admiral and Mrs. Louis E. Denfeld Scholarship**

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Through a bequest in her will, Rachel Denfeld established this scholarship to help students from Westborough, MA pursue higher education. Rachel created a second scholarship fund for high school students in the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School. Together, the two scholarships are a living memorial to Rachel and her husband, Louis Denfeld, and a tribute to Admiral Denfeld's 38-year career in the United States Navy.

Born in Westborough in 1891, Louis Emil Denfeld graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1912. He served on the destroyer *U.S.S. McCall* during World War I and took command of that ship after the war. He later served on a submarine and commanded various destroyer divisions, including Destroyer Squadron 1 during the first half of World War II. In the war's second half, he held increasingly prestigious administrative roles before returning to sea as the commander of Battleship Division 9 in 1945. After the war, he rose in the ranks until 1947, when he was appointed Chief of Naval Operations, a position that can be held only by a 4-star Admiral.

When political conflict arose between President Truman (who favored strengthening the Air Force at the expense of the Army and Navy) and his generals and admirals, Admiral Denfeld testified to Congress in 1949 that the Navy was not being funded sufficiently to do its job. As a result, Denfeld was discharged from the Navy, and he retired in 1950, settling with Rachel in Westborough. Later that year, he ran for Governor of Massachusetts, but lost the Republican nomination to Arthur W. Coolidge, who lost the race to Democratic candidate John Dever. Denfeld died in 1972, and Rachel passed away in 1978.

For more information, please contact:

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