



Alexander G. Simonatis Scholarship
Greater Worcester Community Foundation

This scholarship was established by Alexander "Buster" Simonatis through a bequest in his will. Awarded since 2005, it is given to Princeton residents who attended a public high school.

Buster was born in Princeton in 1914, the youngest of four children. He graduated from Holden High School in 1933. A strong athlete, he was offered a baseball scholarship to the College of the Holy Cross, but he did not accept it. Instead, he went to work straight out of high school to help support his family, which was struggling during the Great Depression. He was soon drafted into the U.S. Army to fight in World War II. He served in Africa and Europe, and married his wife, Ruth Bennett, while home on leave in 1942.

After the war, Buster returned to Princeton. He and Ruth lived on the family farm raising dairy cows while he earned his Master Plumber's license. He then started a plumbing and heating supply business that served Princeton residents for 50 years. Buster was active in town affairs, serving on the Select Board for 9 years, and also enjoyed restoring old houses.

Throughout his life, Buster was a kind and generous man, always willing to help people in any way that he could. Ruth, who was 9 years older than Buster, died in 1981 at the age of 76. Buster lived to the age of 86 and passed away in 2001. He arranged a bequest to create this scholarship for Princeton students, as he had a special affinity for those who could not afford a college degree without charitable help.

Buster's generous spirit lives on in this scholarship. It is an enduring tribute to his love for the town and citizens of Princeton and his respect for higher education.

For more information, please contact:
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