

CLINTON & BETTY RICHARDS

CHARITABLE FUND

EST.
2013

A FUND OF THE



ELMA AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Clinton W. and Elizabeth Richards were both born in 1923 and grew up on farms south of Nashua, Iowa. They came of age during the Great Depression. They attended country grade schools and then Nashua High School, where they graduated in 1940. Betty was Valedictorian of their class. Betty went on to graduate from a business course at Gates Business College, located in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1943.

Betty and Clinton were married on September 29, 1942. They had four children--Marlys, Darlene, Nancy and Keith.

Clinton enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in August 1942 and was trained as a B-24 bomber pilot for World War II. He was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in January in 1944 and sent to Italy with the 15th Air Force. During 1944, he piloted 35 missions before being shot down on June 26, 1944. He was captured behind enemy lines. First, he was imprisoned and beaten in a civilian prison because they thought he was a spy. Then, he was transferred to a Nazi prison camp for the remainder of WWII. He was liberated by General Patton's army and discharged from service in December 1945.

From 1946 to 1961, Clinton and Betty farmed. They first rented land near Taopi, Minnesota, then in Republic, Iowa, before buying their first farm west of New Hampton in 1951. In 1958, Clinton was named Outstanding Young Farmer of Chickasaw County. Their family was also featured in *Together*, a Methodist magazine. The article entitled "The Land is a Loan from the Lord," featured their success in turning around a once run-down farm into a productive one where they raised soybeans, oats and corn, and had 100 Hereford cattle on pasture. Doctors recommended that Clinton stop farming because of knee and leg injuries he suffered in WWII.

The couple went on to purchase multiple businesses including John Deere dealerships in New Hampton, Osage, Charles City and Panora. Other businesses they owned include the Town & Country shopping center, a Chrysler Auto dealership, a Buick and Pontiac dealer in Charles City, and People's Savings Bank in Elma and Charles City.

At one time, they employed over 100 people. Clinton trained all their managers, and often, after they established a sound operation, they sold each business to their managers. For 50 years, they had a hand in building the business communities of New Hampton, Osage, Waverly, Charles City and Elma, and in helping numerous people get started in small business.

As they were blessed with success, they gave back to their community in many ways, often quietly. One of their more public gifts is the support of a program that teaches every second grader in Nashua to swim at the Charles City YMCA. They started and have been supporting this program since 1976 in memory of Betty's brother, Beryl, who drowned in the Cedar River. They twice received a community service award from the Governor of Iowa.

Betty passed away in 2013 and Charles followed in 2015.

ONLINE GIFTS CAN BE MADE TO THE CLINTON AND BETTY RICHARDS CHARITABLE FUND AT CFNEIA.ORG.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS FUND, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF
NORTHEAST IOWA AT 319-287-9106.