The late Joe “Breezy” Howard ’61 (center) is surrounded by his family, many of whom are Nevada alumni, in a 2008 photo. His wife, Janice ’61, is at his side.

Family of engineering alumnus continues legacy

A family with a growing Nevada legacy has endowed a scholarship in honor of the family patriarch, Joe “Breezy” Howard ’61 (civil engineering). The Joe W. Howard Memorial Scholarship for engineering majors was established through memorial contributions by friends and family following his death in January 2010. Last year, the family made additional donations to bring the scholarship to the endowment level and create an enduring memorial for Howard’s good works in the community.

“Paying for college is difficult for students right now,” says Diane Lancaster ’86 (chemical engineering), Howard’s daughter. “We’re hoping this scholarship helps engineering students get through their education and do great things with their degree. They’re the future of our state.”

Family members who helped create the endowment include Howard’s wife of 48 years, Janice ’61 (medical technology); daughter and son-in-law Diane and Ted Lancaster ’86 (electrical engineering); son David Howard ’91 (biochemistry), ’98Ph.D. (environmental science and health), ’04MD; and daughter and son-in-law Susan ’92 (physical sciences), ’93 (mathematics), ’96M.Ed. (educational leadership) and Lee Roberts ’94 (mechanical engineering).

Howard served in Korea from 1952-54 as a sergeant first class and commander of his platoon. Following honorable discharge, he joined the Army Reserve and began his engineering studies at Nevada. After graduation, Howard and four other principals purchased SE&A Engineers and Associates. His projects included Top Gun improvements at the Naval Air Station in Fallon and the Greg Street expansion in Sparks, and he was awarded Engineer of the Year from the Reno Chapter of the Nevada Society of Professional Engineers. He was active in numerous professional and community organizations, including the Airport Authority of Northern Nevada, for which he served as member and chairman. He was president of the Truckee Meadows Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Nevada Chapter of American Public Works Association. He was also a volunteer for the Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program.

“He was such a good man and cared so deeply for his family and the community,” Lancaster says. “We loved him for his sense of humor, his integrity and his wisdom. We will always remember him as a moral and humble man who was a wonderful father and husband and who was our role model.”

Lancaster’s eldest son, Stephen, is a freshman at Nevada studying—of course—engineering. “And the legacy continues,” Lancaster says.

–Roseann Keegan

To learn more about supporting the College of Engineering, please contact Maryanne Cameron, director of development, (775) 682-9503 or mcameron@unr.edu.