A collection of photos and newspaper clippings from the late Michael ‘49 (animal science) and Esther Galli tells the story of two lives well-lived, and two lives devoted to Nevada. Throughout their travels, including a 25-year assignment overseas for the U.S. government, the couple held a deep affection for the Battle Born state and its flagship land-grant university.

The Gallis—he, a decorated war veteran who grew up in Elko, and she, a native Nevadan who worked in the state comptroller’s office—touched a great many lives during their travels here and abroad. Their legacy of good works lives on through the Michael N. and Esther R. Galli Scholarship Endowment in Medicine and the Michael N. and Esther R. Galli Scholarship Endowment in Nursing, established through a $2.9 million planned gift by Michael Galli before his passing in January 2010 at age 91. Michael created the scholarships as a tribute to Esther, who died of cancer in 1995.

Michael enlisted in the U.S. Army eight months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served throughout World War II and was a combat survivor of the Battle of the Bulge. He received three service medals: the World War II Victory Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal. Michael returned to his home state to attend the University of Nevada, Reno on the GI Bill.

After graduation, Michael married Esther Romano, a dark-haired beauty with a glowing smile who, while attending Nevada, was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Esther accompanied him overseas during his career as a Foreign Service Officer specializing in agriculture development for the U.S. Department of State and the Agency of International Development. They spent 25 years abroad with assignments in India, Ethiopia, Brazil, Libya, South Vietnam and Laos.

After retiring in 1975, the couple settled in Reno, where they were avid fans of Wolf Pack football and faithful donors to the University. They continued to travel, cruising several times on the Island Princess Love Boat. They were married for 45 years until Esther’s passing.

—Roseann Keegan

To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please contact Lisa M. Riley, Esq., director of Planned Giving, at (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu.