

The Koomar Memorial Scholarship

Joseph B. Koomar & Bernadine B. Koomar

The trust for the Joseph B. Koomar College Scholarship Fund was established in the early 1990s. Organized and administrated for nearly 30 years by his wife Bernadine B. Koomar, this scholarship now serves as a memorial to them both.

Joseph B. Koomar (1923-1990) was one of fourteen children born to Michael P. and Anna Koomar in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania. Having served in Iwo Jima and the Occupation of Japan with the Marines in World War II, Mr. Koomar enrolled at Western Illinois State College (now WIU) under the G.I. Bill. Majoring in English, his activities and interests were well-rounded: playing left tackle on Western's football team, wrestling, fraternity, speech, journalism, and drama.

Graduating in 1949, he taught English, stagecraft and drama in Burlington, Iowa. After his 1950 marriage to Bernadine Brown, he taught English and coached football and basketball at Morris (Illinois) High School.

Having changed professions upon starting a family, Mr. Koomar worked in manufacturing, first as a buyer in Bradley and later as co-founder of a manufacturers' representative business. Maintaining his interest in education, he served many years on three school boards: Bourbonnais Elementary, Bradley Elementary, and Peotone District 207-U, as well as coaching a bit. His business, golf, spectator sports, music, drama, and family were the joys of his later life.

The fine arts (music and drama), athletics, spirituality, the English arts, and higher education were very important to him, and he impressed this upon his eight children, all of whom he saw graduate from Peotone High School and from college.

Bernadine B. Koomar (1928-2019) was born to Lee O. and Elsie Ahlin Brown. The oldest of two girls, she grew up on a farm and attended school while responsible for doing many chores twice a day. Bernadine applied herself to academics and graduated high school valedictorian. She attended Western Illinois State College majoring in English Education. Among her many accomplishments, she was the founding President of the Alpha Epsilon chapter of Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

Bernadine graduated in 1950, married Joseph and moved to Morris, IL. She worked as a teacher in Grundy and Kankakee counties and served as principal at Mazon Grade School. Upon moving to Peotone, she gave up teaching to raise her eight children as Joseph traveled extensively to build his business. She enjoyed many activities in the community and served for twelve years as a board member for Peotone District 207-U.

It was important to Bernadine that the Scholarship continue after her death and that the recipients meet the criteria set forth in the original Rules and Guideline of the Joseph B. Koomar Scholarship Fund:

“It is recommended that recipients be well rounded students. Besides doing well in academics, recipients should excel in at least one extra curricular activity (i.e. Music, Drama, Athletics, Communications, Community Service, etc.) It is also recommended that the student exhibit a lot of desire and some financial need. Students must be planning to attend college and be in the top one-half of the class.”

The Koomar family established this memorial scholarship to assist and encourage a Peotone High School graduate to attend college in the way that the G.I. Bill enabled Joseph Koomar and a scholarship enabled Bernadine Koomar to pursue their goals. It is hoped that each year the recipient will possess many of the same qualities and values that Joseph Koomar had- most importantly being a well-rounded student with a great desire for more learning and with involvement in at least one of the areas in which he excelled.

Deadline: March 8, 2022

APPLICATION FOR JOSEPH B. KOOMAR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Name of Applicant _____

Home Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

U.S. Citizen Yes _____ No _____ Dist. 207-U Resident for _____ years.

Schools Attended:

Name

Dates

Other Information:

List any other scholarships which you have received or applied for:

Work experience: List jobs held, dates, employers, and earnings during last two years.

Names of schools by which you have been accepted or which you plan on attending:

Give your professional goals: _____

References

	Name	Address	Occupation
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

WHY ARE YOU APPLYING FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP?

Write an essay on the following:

--Why are you attending college?

--What goals do you plan to accomplish after receiving a college degree?

--Financial need?

Optional Essay

--Discuss anything you feel is pertinent to your application and would like the selection committee to consider.

ATTACH ESSAYS TO APPLICATION

I understand that if I fail to attend the university of my choice or if I fail to complete the academic semester, that I will reimburse the Joseph B. Koomar College Scholarship Fund for any unused portion of the scholarship grant.

Student Signature

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

This recommendation will be completed AFTER the completed application & essays are submitted to the Guidance Dept.

Statement of Principal or Guidance Counselor

Name of Applicant _____

Class Rank of Applicant _____ Number in Class _____

Please rate the following:

Academic Record	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Achievement Test Results	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Character	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Leadership	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Service	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Outstanding = 10--9 Above Average = 8-6 Average = 5 Below Average = 4-2
Weak = 1

Comments: (optional)