



WILLIAM AND MARY SUE TATUM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**“A life of significance is about serving those who need your gifts,
your leadership, your purpose.” -Kevin Hall**

The William and Mary Sue Tatum Memorial Scholarship is hereby established to promote the education and advancement any High School student in Randolph County who will attend Southern Union State Community College.

William K. and Mary Watson Tatum exemplified a life dedicated to serving others. Being obedient to the commands of their God, they sought to give of themselves without reservation and through their dedicated service impacted the lives of many. Though they chose different paths of service, they gave unselfishly and we are bettered because of their devotion.

William heeded the call to serve his fellowman through service to his country in the US Army. Realizing the immense cost of freedom, he served with distinction and honor for over 24 years as a decorated Army veteran. As a soldier, William served in varied assignments both at home and abroad. From being drafted and subsequent enlistment at Fort Ord, California to duty stations at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Riley, Kansas; The Old Guard; Fort Myers, Virginia; Korea; Vietnam; Senior Drill Sergeant, Fort Polk, Louisiana; Senior Instructor, Marion Military Institute; Senior Instructor ROTC, University of Alabama; First Sergeant Berlin, Germany, MSG Tatum helped to impart life changing principles to his charges. Even after retirement, William mentored fellow veterans through membership in the American Legion.

After graduating from Randolph County Training School (RCTS) in Roanoke, Alabama, Mary Sue pursued her dream of becoming a teacher. Mary Sue graduated from Alabama A & M University (A &M) with a degree in Elementary Education. Departing A&M with teaching credentials in hand, Mary Sue returned to the place where her formal education began, RCTS. Recognizing the importance of beginning her career at her alma mater, Mary Sue excelled by never settling for the status quo. She was instrumental in breaking down racial barriers as she became one of the first Black teachers hired as an instructor in the Roanoke City Schools System. Mary Sue’s teaching career spanned 35 years, 23 years at RCTS and 12 years at Roanoke City Schools. Mary Sue’s influence on the lives of her students is noticeably evident by the number who became respectable citizens and notable professionals around the country.

Whether in or out of the classroom, Mary sought to instruct and mentor whomever (child or adult) crossed her path. After retirement Mary consistently volunteered in educational endeavors at the Annie L. Awbrey Library and within the Roanoke City Schools System.

William K. And Mary Sue served their present age spiritually, educationally, and socially to make tomorrow a better day for those who would come after them.

“Let me live in my house by the side of the road And be a friend to man” -Sam Walter Foss

The award is conditioned upon the following guidelines:

Donor will gift funds to the Southern Union Foundation earmarked for the William and Mary Sue Tatum Scholarship. The corpus shall be held in a non-restricted account of the SU Foundation and funds will be utilized until depleted.

A total of eight (8) scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each shall be awarded. Scholarships shall be awarded to two (2) students from High Schools in Randolph County each May (over the course of four (4) years) who wish to pursue a career in Education. No applicant shall apply who is not dedicated to pursuing a degree in Education. Funds shall be used to cover tuition, fees and/or textbooks.

The following are the necessary Application Criteria:

1. The scholarship is open to first-time freshmen who have been accepted for enrollment by SUCC following graduation from **a High School in Randolph County, Alabama.**
2. Applicants must be a high school senior with good standing at their High School in Randolph County, Alabama. The student must have passing grades, no record of any serious disciplinary action, and must be considered by their High school to be a good citizen of the community.
3. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
4. Applicants must demonstrate a need for financial aid.

Directions for Submission:

1. Complete Application and attach the necessary requirements.
2. Attach a recent transcript with current GPA.
3. 2 letters of recommendation from educators.
4. Email all info to kesa@kmj.law or drop off at 994 Main Street, Roanoke, Alabama by March 1st.

5. The recipients will be notified by May 15th.

No person shall be denied an award of funds on the basis of race, creed, sex or religion provided he/she otherwise qualify with the terms and guidelines set forth by this agreement.

The scholarship amount shall not exceed the rate of annual award nor an amount in excess of the cost of tuition and fees. Should two candidates not be identified each year, funds may be held and donor can then determine whether to add another fund to the following year or hold out funds for the end of the award period until two proper candidates are identified.

Kesa M. Johnston

Executrix of the Estate of Mary Sue Tatum