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Greetings from Tigertown!

"With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see." These words from Ella Wheeler Wilcox, an author and a poet, ring especially true when considering planned gifts. It is those who are most committed to a life of generosity who will selflessly plant seeds that will yield a harvest they will never see. The members of our Clemson Legacy Society, through their thoughtful and purposeful generosity, have remembered Clemson in their gift and estate planning. To recognize them for their commitment to future generations, each year we gather for the Clemson Legacy Society Dinner to celebrate and induct the newest members into this esteemed society and present them with a framed copy of Thomas Green Clemson's last will and testament. It was a privilege to attend this year's dinner and recognize these special individuals for their amazing generosity. We invite you to watch the special video above highlighting the importance of planned gifts. We also encourage you to watch a recap of this special evening here.

The following day, we participated in another great tradition, the Fort Hill Legacy Society Bronze Leaf Dedication Ceremony – a posthumous honor bestowed upon those whose planned gifts have resulted in $1 million or more in support of the University. A bronzed leaf is personally commissioned for each inductee and includes their signatures and a description of their philanthropy. This year we inducted John “Jay” D. Lamar and Alice C. Lamar, who were honored for their extraordinary and thoughtful generosity to Clemson University.

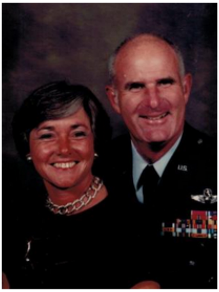
The Lamars experienced a lifetime of adventure. Jay worked for Voice of America and Alice worked as a nurse with the Foreign Service. Prior to marrying Jay, Alice worked as a nurse helping the first Holocaust victims in Germany after WWII. The two traveled the world to places as far as Tunisia, Sri Lanka and Liberia. When looking for a place to retire, the beauty and peace of Mountain Rest and Walhalla lured them to South Carolina, which became home.

Jay and Alice committed their lives to serving their community in every place they lived. When it came time to design their estate plan, they immediately selected the students from Oconee County as the beneficiary of their generosity. They believed that education is the solution to every societal problem, and they put in motion a plan to partner with Clemson University and its land-grant mission.

With the idea in mind to put their wealth to service, the Lamars crafted their generous estate gift to impact the local community and provide need-based academic scholarships for Oconee County residents. Please take a moment to read more about the Lamars here.

Within the special group of legacy donors who have included Clemson in their gift and estate planning is Brigadier General Chalmers "Hap" Carr ('60). Hap, living his life serving and giving to others, many of whom he will never meet, has selflessly sown many seeds for the future.

Within minutes of meeting him, you ask yourself, "How will *I* serve?" Hap's service to others is far-reaching – from his military service to our University and beyond. He watched his father serve others – through military service and a successful medical career. Hap never imagined that he would follow his father into military service, but that is exactly what he did.



At the request of his Uncle Slick, Hap took a bus to Clemson in 1956 to tour the campus. He remembers it was a "beautiful, beautiful May day" – the kind of day synonymous with spring in Clemson. Throughout the next two days, Hap felt he was home. He says, "I fell in love with the place. I got back on the bus on Sunday and had all of the application papers filled out, and all I had left to do was to take them back and get them signed. And that was it." Hap was now destined to become a Clemson Tiger.

As a new student at Clemson, he was approached about pilot training. Throughout the next two years, he trained to become a pilot and started down the path to join the Air Force. This new journey propelled him to switch majors – moving from agriculture to industrial management – allowing him to build his business skills within the field of engineering.

Before joining the Air Force in March of the next year, he worked as an ambulance driver in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was during this time that he met Emma Jeannette DeWitt – a recent graduate from nursing school. Hap and Jeannette married in 1962 and soon after, Hap joined the Air Force.

For the first 15 years, most of Hap's duties involved piloting. He spent five years working in the Pentagon at the highest level, and after a series of different command-level assignments, Hap was promoted to General Officer. He spent the last part of his military career working in the Department of the Air Force Inspector General.

Hap and Jeannette moved their family to numerous locations around the country while Jeannette sustained her career as a nurse for 20 years. Yet, no matter where they lived, "her love of farming never left," he says. Warmly remembered and known for her love of gardening, Jeanette was often called "The Veggie Lady." She enjoyed sharing the bounty of her garden with their neighbors – leaving bags of vegetables on their doorstep.

Hap and Jeannette were happily married for 57 years. They had two wonderful children, Martha '85 and Chalmers '90, and built a life of love and devotion – all while serving others. Retiring after nearly 30 years in the Air Force, most would have considered their professional goals complete. However, Hap and Jeannette realized this was an opportunity to begin a new chapter. Jeannette supported Hap every step of the way – through his career in the Air Force and his work after retirement within private industry for an Aerospace company. Hap says, "She was my wingman." Always by Hap's side, Jeannette provided the strength and the encouragement needed to deepen and grow their service to others and their community.

In 2001, Chalmers and his wife, Lori Ann, purchased Titan Farms and asked Hap to assist them in managing the pack house operation. Hap was hesitant because he had not worked on a farm since he was a young man. But Chalmers was not looking for someone who could simply run the pack house. He needed a leader who could manage and motivate people – and that was Hap.

Titan Farms has grown into the largest peach grower on the East Coast — with more than 6,200 acres of peaches in production, along with 600 acres of bell peppers and 1,000 acres of broccoli. As the farm harvested extensive success, Jeannette remained dedicated to her own small-scale produce operation. She became the backbone of Ridge Spring Farmer's Market – providing quality produce to members of the community. Sadly, Jeannette passed away April 1, 2019, after a long battle with cancer. On Saturdays at the Ridge Spring Farmer's Market, you can feel her presence and passion – as it lives on in the people of that community whenever they share the bountiful harvest with others.

To honor Jeannette's memory, Hap established the ***Emma Jeannette Carr Memorial Endowment*** to advance vegetable gardening education and outreach through the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service. Titan Farms donates all proceeds from the sale of the produce to the endowment in honor of Jeannette and her love of gardening.

Hap and his family have devoted their lives to making the world a better place. And through it all, they have continued to serve our great University. With his time, talent and treasure, Hap is committed to giving back to a place that has given him so much. He says, "I have always felt that the Lord gave me a lot and I need to give back." In addition to the ***Emma Jeannette Carr Memorial Endowment***, Hap and Jeannette designated Clemson University as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. This gift will establish the **Chalmers R. "Hap" Carr, Jr., '60 and Jeannette D. Carr Unrestricted Endowment for Excellence**, directed to areas of greatest need within the University, and the **Chalmers R. "Hap" Carr, Jr., '60 and Jeannette D. Carr Clemson Corps Grant-in-Aid Endowment.**

Hap and Jeannette's endowment to support Clemson Corps will be essential to recruit and support our nation's future military leaders. Their unrestricted endowment will ensure that Clemson will meet the everchanging needs of our ROTC students in the future. Hap is actively involved in Clemson Corps, which exists to recruit, unite and support brave men and women who will use their Clemson education to lead the nation's military. Hap and Jeannette's planned gift will support Clemson Corps to ensure that future generations of military leaders will have the necessary resources to receive a Clemson education – while also honoring Clemson's rich military heritage. Learn more about supporting Clemson Corps through annual scholarships and endowments here.

While serving as Clemson Corps President, Hap facilitated a strategic analysis and concluded that, "We needed to expand our mission to keep the tradition alive." For all the amazing things Hap has done throughout his life, he considers his greatest legacy to be his participation in the Clemson Scroll of Honor. In reflecting on the project, Hap says, "That is the legacy that I feel most proud of." He continues, "The Scroll of Honor project demonstrates the true spirit of giving at Clemson. It was the collaborative efforts of the Clemson Corps, the Alumni Association, Clemson Athletics, IPTAY, the students, and many Clemson alumni and friends. It was truly a ONE CLEMSON effort." Read more about Hap and his family's unwavering commitment to Clemson here.

When you are on campus, please visit Memorial Park and read the **Clemson Scroll of Honor**, which memorializes the Clemson men and women who have given their lives in service to our country – from the Spanish American War through to our current day. Hap, along with many others who have given of their time to conceptualize, establish and enhance the Scroll of Honor are dedicated to giving each of us a glimpse into the University's tradition of service. The Scroll of Honor is unique as every aspect of the park's design allows you to observe and honor our University's rich military heritage. More importantly, they have created a special place for each of us to pause and better understand the true meaning of sacrifice.

Another beautiful tribute to our military tradition is the Military Heritage Plaza. The 18 steps in Military Heritage Plaza inscribe the ideals and values instilled in every Clemson cadet and current ROTC student. This monument showcases an array of military medals, ribbons and honors from all branches of the armed services, including the Congressional Medal of Honor, which has been awarded to three Clemson alumni.

The Clemson men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country have sown the seeds of leadership and heroism that ensures our freedoms and the opportunity for success – creating a human chain of service and generosity to others. On our beautiful campus, we feel their perpetual influence on our lives, challenging each of us to step up and pave the way for others to follow.

Our beloved hero, Brig. Gen. Ben Skardon '38, who represents the highest ideal of a Clemson man, joined his beautiful wife in heaven last Monday, at the age of 104.

Brig. Gen. Skardon served 23 years in the US Army following his graduation from Clemson in 1938. He served in World War II as the commander of Company A of the 92nd Infantry Regiment PA (Philippine Army) and led his troops through some of the worst days of the war, earning two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart during his first four months. On April 9, 1942, he became a prisoner of war when American troops were forced to surrender to the Japanese. He then endured one of the most notorious war crimes in history: The Bataan Death March.

Brig. Gen. Skardon survived the march and more than three years as a POW, despite becoming deathly ill. Two fellow Clemson alumni, Henry Leitner and Otis Morgan, kept him alive by spoon-feeding him and eventually trading his gold Clemson ring — which he had managed to keep hidden — for food. Leitner and Morgan did not survive the war. Their unimaginable story is told at every Clemson Ring Ceremony.

As WWII came to an end, Brig. Gen. Skardon survived the sinking of two unmarked Japanese transport ships carrying him, along with other POWs to mainland Japan. Russian units finally freed him in August 1945. He went on to serve in Korea from 1951-52 and retired from the Army at the rank of colonel in 1962.

In 1964 he returned to his alma mater, joining the Clemson faculty in the Department of English, where he taught for more than 20 years until his retirement in 1985. In 2006, at the young age of 88, Brig. Gen. Skardon became the only survivor to walk in the annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. He walked more than eight miles and returned to walk 12 more times.

During last Saturday's Military Appreciation Game, it was announced that Ben Skardon had been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Army. Among his last days with us, he was notified of the approval of the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense following nomination and advocacy by U.S. Representative Jeff Duncan, also a proud Clemson alumni.

The hardships he faced during years of war did not dampen his wonderful spirit. He was a strong, happy and courageous Clemson gentleman. It was my honor and privilege to know and love him. I will always remember his heartwarming smile, selfless generosity, and his gift of storytelling. His amazing spirit will forever live on in each of us – his friends and fellow Tigers. We are grateful for his extraordinary legacy. He lived a life of great valor, bravery and service, and the entire Clemson Family mourns the loss of this legendary man. Please take a moment to watch this special video.

Each of us is granted the unique opportunity to sow our own seeds in the rich soil of Clemson’s tradition of excellence. Planning today for the progression and enhancement of Clemson’s future is a true mark of selfless generosity. Although you may never see the results of what is sure to be a bountiful harvest, it will be a legacy worth living and leaving for future generations. Please consider how your gifts, both today and tomorrow, can shape and enhance the Clemson experience.

As we watch the vibrant colors of the fall season burst into view, remember it was a seed planted by someone else – in soil cultivated by others and nurtured by the sun and sky – which produced this amazing harvest of color. Ask yourself, “What seeds will I plant today that will produce a rich and bountiful harvest?” This great University is rooted in the excellent soil of so many who have faithfully invested in our future. It is our collective sowing and nurturing of the Clemson experience that will produce a vibrant yield in the lives of our students. As you reflect on these thoughts, remember: *those you serve today will make a difference tomorrow.*

We encourage you to reach out to us for assistance in deciding how you can make a difference for future generations. Our website features useful online resources that we hope you will explore. December is just around the corner and you can find information about IRA Charitable Qualified Distribution (QCD) benefits here. For information regarding general estate planning, please download our free Wills Guide, which is designed to help you navigate your thoughts and plans before you visit with your attorney and/or advisors. And of course, we would always enjoy hearing from you directly by emailing us at giving@clemson.edu.

Wishing you and your family a very happy, healthy and bountiful Thanksgiving.

Gratefully yours,

JoVanna

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P.S. I want to highlight that we have one of the best planned giving teams in the country. Our team of fundraising professionals is driving a culture of philanthropy that provides resources and inspiration through charitable gift and estate planning. Let us help you craft an investment, during life or at death, that will yield you and your family the most rewarding and gratifying ROIs available. Please help us protect, preserve, and enhance the *Clemson Experience* for future generations of Tigers.

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Washington News

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Donor Stories

Learn how others have made an impact at Clemson through their acts of giving.

A Ring of History

The Clemson ring brings Tigers together in extraordinary ways, but it also represents a piece of every Clemson family's history. Clemson has always been a big part of Ann's life because of her father's and grandfather's connections, and their rings represent this special bond. Not long before her father passed away, he misplaced his own Clemson ring. But after finding her grandfather's ring all these years later, Ann is hopeful that she will one day find her father's Clemson ring. READ MORE.

Thank you for your interest in planned giving. To access any of our resources, please go to our website.

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