Melvin J. Phelps was born in Beatrice, Nebraska where he spent his childhood. During World War II he served with the 28th Division in France, Belgium and Germany. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserves until his retirement as a Major.

Thelma Arthur was also born and reared in Beatrice, Nebraska. She and Melvin were married in Auburn, Nebraska May 17, 1941. Mel and Thelma first visited Oregon where Mel took his military training at Camp Adair, then located near Corvallis. Impressed with Oregon's beauty, they decided they wanted to live there. Thelma remained in Oregon while Melvin served in the military. When he returned he worked briefly for the State Employment and Unemployment Service; then was hired by the Eugene Register-Guard Newspaper in 1946 where he was the credit manager until his retirement in 1983.

The Phelps have two children: a daughter, Sandra Ackley, who lives in Oregon, and a son, Stephen, who lives in Idaho. Both children attended Northwest Nazarene College.

Mel and Thelma have been long-time active members of the Church of the Nazarene. Mel served for a number of years as a school board director, a scoutmaster and troop committee member, and a member of the Oregon Trail Council’s Eagle Review Board.

Criteria for awarding of scholarship

1. Grants are for the purpose of providing funds for assisting with the purchase of books and supplies and are to be made to students who demonstrate financial need.

2. Applications may be made through the Students Accounts Supervisor and the Financial Aid Office for approval by the Financial Aid Committee.

3. General requirements for full-time student status and a minimum 2.0 GPA apply.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived. Gifts to NNC’s Endowed Scholarship Program become a "helping hand" to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others. For more information, contact the Development Office, NNC, Dewey at Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8842.