Robert Earl Thompson (May 29, 1945 – June 19, 2001) was a man of character and talent who enjoyed life to the fullest. He gained his artistic perspective in his hometown of Whittier, California where he fell in love with art as a high school student. He once wrote of his art teachers, “They taught me about life, history, and culture as well as the principles, foundations, and techniques of art.”

Bob attended Northwest Nazarene University on and off beginning in 1962. He graduated in 1974 with a degree in art education and began his career as a technical drawing teacher at South Junior High School in Nampa. In 1976, Bob was hired as the graphic artist for the Nampa School District. He later worked as a graphic artist for a number of local and national companies and used his artistic talent to become a packaging engineer. Bob eventually returned to the classroom as an art teacher at Vallivue Middle School.

Bob’s artistry is displayed in a number of locations. Although he was best known for his banners, many of which hang from the ceiling in the Montgomery Fieldhouse, his sandblasting business and directional signs dot the city of Nampa and the NNU campus. A number of Bob’s watercolors are displayed in the homes and offices of his many friends.

Bob Thompson’s love for his Lord, his family, and his fellow man were displayed in his humor, laughter, and hugs that drew people to him and reflect what many remember about him. (The “Bob Thompson Santa” was a campus and family tradition.) The memory of his delight will brighten the lives of those he touched for decades to come.

The desire to serve God and seek His will was the foundation of Bob’s character and art. He was a humble servant who genuinely cared for others, who delighted in the life with which God had blessed him, and who used his talent to glorify God.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students of “Good Standing” academic status who also demonstrate a growing Christian character;
2. Students are to be pursuing a full-time art-related career and carrying at least 12 semester credits to be eligible for this award;
3. Substantial financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship;
4. Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years;
5. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Department of Art and the Office of Financial Aid.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived.
Gifts to NNU’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 Office of Planned Giving, NNU, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.