



THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST FOUNDATION HONORS

Dr. Vernon O. Jackson and Thelma B. Jackson



This scholarship was established as a memorial to the Jacksons. Thelma B. Jackson, known to her friends as “B”, was born September 27, 1917, in Scranton, Arkansas, and passed away January 29, 2011, in Tulsa, OK. “B” and her parents, the late Burton M. and Ruth Kinney Coleman moved to Okemah, Oklahoma in 1920. “B” was a graduate of Okemah High School, attended Okemah Junior College and LaSalle University, Chicago, and graduated from Central State College, Edmond, OK. “B” married Vernon O. Jackson, her high-school sweetheart, on July 10, 1939, in Weleetka.

Both Thelma and Vernon taught school at Sand Springs School located in rural Okfuskee County. When World War II began, Vernon enlisted in the U.S. Navy and the couple moved to Great Lakes Naval Station, IL. During the war “B” worked for the Department of the Navy as a civilian employee. At the end of the War, the couple returned to the Okemah area and moved to Mason, OK, where they both taught. In 1948 the family moved to Tulsa.

In 1952 “B” opened Eisenhower Child Care, designed to be the premier facility of its kind. It was the first structure in Tulsa built exclusively for a children’s daycare. “B” retired in 1984. “B” was a member of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Okemah; the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; the Auxiliary of American Legion Post 123; and, a lifetime member of the Okfuskee County Historical Society. “B” was inducted into the Okemah Hall of Fame. In addition to her work in early childhood

education, a successful business person, and philanthropic activities, "B" was a full-time working mother of three children, Vernon, Susan, and Mary Bea. She never missed a Cub Scout or Brownie event. She attended countless softball and football games, band concerts and trips, piano recitals, school plays and PTA Chili Suppers. She always purchased candy bars, cookies, magazine subscriptions, or anything else her children were selling to raise money.