

# ENERQUIP SCHOLARSHIP

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES & JOSEPH 'PEP' SIMEK & JIM NIELSON



## FUND BACKSTORY . . .

**Frances & Joseph 'Pep' Simek**, owners of Enerquip from 1985-2007, moved to Medford from Chicago in 1960. By 1962 they were running the Tombstone Tavern along with Pep's brother, Ronald. The brothers came up with the pizza making idea to bring in more money to support their families. They worked out of the bar's 6'x6' kitchen.

The pizzas were fine, but they got better after Pep broke his leg and, unable to tend bar, had time to fiddle with the recipe. He called the owner of a favorite Chicago pizza place, who told him "the secret was in the spices." The resulting pizzas were a hit, and within three years Tombstone Pizza was available in the Medford area, selling 2,000 pizzas a day and known for the tagline, "What do you want on your Tombstone?"

The company was sold to Kraft in 1986 and eventually to Nestlé. Later Pep established Pep's Pizza in Medford and had numerous other business interests which included Enerquip Thermal Solutions.

The Simeks were generous to the community in many ways, often downplaying their role.

Joseph "Pep" Simek, Sr. passed away on February 18, 2013; Frances preceded him in death on November 1, 2010.

**Jim Nielson**, owner of Enerquip from 2007 to 2022, was born in Canada but made Cody, WY, his home at a young age when his family purchased Park Refining Company, later known as Husky Oil. After graduating from Cody High School and attending the University of Wyoming, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy.

In 1973, Jim became President and CEO of Husky Oil, overseeing its growth into a major energy company. Following the company's acquisition, he founded JN Oil and Gas in Billings, Montana. Later, he established Nielson & Associates in Cody, allowing more time for family activities.

Jim served on numerous boards and supported various philanthropic causes, demonstrating his love for the Cody community and Wyoming. He passed away at his home on November 17, 2022, at the age of 91.

## CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:

- Gilman, Medford, and Rib Lake High School graduating seniors
- Planning to attend an accredited technical college
- Pursuing a degree in the area(s) of welding, machining, CAD design, engineering, and/or related field.

**This scholarship is administered through the schools. Please check with your school for information on applications, award announcement, & award payment.**

