**John MacPherson Memorial Scholarship**

**McLouth High School ($1500)**

John MacPherson was born in Washington State and grew up in eastern Kansas. His family moved to McLouth when he was 12 years old. John helped his dad farm and raise hogs on their farm west of town and it was not uncommon for him to be called out of class and sent home because his hogs had gotten out. His father died when he was 14, resulting in a change to John’s plans for his future.

After high school, rather than becoming a dairy farmer, John enlisted in the Navy and served in Vietnam. His military service allowed him to attend college on the GI Bill. He attended college in Colorado and served the Denver Public Schools for 34 years as a much-loved teacher and administrator. Over the years, he made many trips back to McLouth in order to visit the Kimberlin and Herries families who had become like family to him. While John was indeed a smart man, his wish was to be remembered “as a kind and gentle man.”

John MacPherson passed away in January 2021 from a rare form of Parkinson’s Disease. His cause of death was deemed “service related” due to his exposure to Agent Orange during his time in Vietnam as a young man. As a result, his widow has been granted a surviving spouse’s benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs. She has chosen to use a portion of that compensation to fund this scholarship in her late husband’s memory.

**Award criteria/considerations**

All graduating seniors are welcome to apply. Please know that the following criteria will be considered when awarding this scholarship.

* GPA of 2.3 or higher (please share a copy of your most recent transcript)
* Financial need
* Planning to attend a public, in-state school (college/university, vocational/training/certification program)

**John MacPherson**

**Memorial Scholarship**

**McLouth High School**

**Application Form**

**Name**:                                                                      **Date:**

**Email address:**

**Address:**

**Phone**:                                                             **Date of Birth**:

**Graduation Date:**                                **GPA:**

**Major area of interest:**

**What are your plans for after graduation? (college, vocational training, etc)**

**For the following sections, please indicate years/dates of participation.**

**Academic Activities:** (Honors, Awards, Class or Club Offices, etc.)

**School Related Extra Curricular Activities**:   (Honors, Awards, Sports, Music, Art, etc.)

**Civic Activities:** (Scouts, 4-H, Church, Community Service Projects, etc.)

**One letter of recommendation** should be included with this scholarship (this does not need to be from a teacher):

**Please write a short essay** (limit one page) explaining your financial need, future educational plans and career goals. Please consider addressing one or more of the following questions in your essay:

* What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?
* Who do you most look up to?
* Who do you live with? How many siblings do you have?
* Have you held any jobs during high school? Volunteered in the community?

Feel free to include any additional information or special circumstances that you feel should be taken into consideration.

**Application is due to Mrs. Rainey on the first Friday in April. Following receipt and review of the applications, finalists will be invited to participate in a meeting/interview via Zoom/phone.**