



Danville Public School Foundation News

Special Edition - July 2019

For One Who Made A Difference

A Special Edition in Honor & Memory of

JULIUS W. HEGELER II



Julius W. Hegeler II

1928-2019

**"Oh I Have Slipped The Surly Bonds of Earth...
Put Out My Hand And Touched the Face of**

Julius W. Hegeler II, husband, father, brother, combat pilot, successful businessman, philanthropist and a true friend to Danville, has, as he would like to say, folded his wings for the last time.

Few make a mark on a community as he did.

Hegeler grew up in Danville attending Roselawn School and graduating from Danville High School in 1946.

Even as a young boy he was an entrepreneur, having a snack shop and fuel stop for the boaters on Lake Vermilion.

Except for the time he spent at college, both at the University of Illinois and Millikin University, and his time in the United States Air Force, he called Danville home.



Julius W. Hegeler II as a fighter pilot during the Korean War.

As an Air Force fighter pilot he flew 70 combat missions during the Korean War and flew the war's final mission. For his service he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross which is awarded to any officer or enlisted member of the United States Armed Forces who distinguishes himself or herself in support of operations by

“heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.”

His love of flying was lifelong and he continued flying until his late 80s.

When he returned to Danville, he and his brother Edward, along with Harry and Bob Peterson and Jack Shea founded the Peterson Filing and Packaging Company, which became Peterson/Puritan, Inc. This would become the largest contract packager of chemical specialties with plants in Illinois, Georgia, Rhode Island, California, Canada and affiliates in Mexico, South America, and Switzerland.

In 1966, Hegeler sold his interest in Peterson/Puritan for an exchange in stock. In 1992, using 90% of that stock he formed the Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation.

The Foundation is headquartered at his boyhood home at 1521 North Vermilion which he completely restored.

It is not an understatement to say that his generosity was legendary. Scores of Vermilion County based not-for-profits, and thousands of people have been touched by the gifts provided by the Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation.

The Danville Public School Foundation received a gift of \$250,000, a continuing Title Sponsorship of the Foundation's 365 Club Breakfast, along with a sizeable bequest that will allow the School Foundation to sustain its mission for years to come.



**JULIUS W. HEGELER II
FOUNDATION**



Mr. Hegeler receiving the Julius W. Hegeler II Legacy Award from the Danville Public School Foundation recognizing his bequest to the School Foundation.

Left to right: Charles Hall, Julius W. Hegeler II, Lois Wise & Bob Richard

Following is just a sample of the other organizations that were blessed by the Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation:

- Danville AMBUCS
- Vermilion County Conservation District
- Balloons Over Vermilion
- YMCA
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Danville Area Community College Foundation
- Work Source
- OSF - Bobette Steely Cancer Center
- Danville Public Library Foundation
- United Way of Danville
- Laura Lee Fellowship House
- Boys and Girls Club
- Vermilion County War Museum
- Vermilion County Airport Authority

At the time of his passing he was actively involved in the restoration of the historic Fischer Theater.

One event that he really enjoyed sponsoring was the Polar Express. He loved projects involv-



Julius W. Hegeler II with some of the cast from the Polar Express.

ing children and he would rarely miss a performance and chance to see all the children enjoying themselves.

Hegeler stated his gifts were a way to “payback” Danville for all the opportunities that he was afforded. Personal relationships



Julius W. Hegeler II sitting on a bench given in his honor at Danville High School presented by Danville School District 118.

were important to him and he often said he supported people not organizations.

Hegeler received many local recognitions:

- AMBUCS First Citizen
- Danville High School’s Wall of Fame

- Vermilion County Business Hall of Fame
- Kenneth D. Bailey Academy’s Wall of Honor
- Power of Hope Award from the then Presence United Samaritans Medical Center
- Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame
- Association of Fundraising Professionals of East Central Illinois’ Foundation of the Year Award

So many have been helped because of Hegeler’s efforts. With the many bequeathed gifts he left he will continue to help shape Danville and Vermilion County’s future.

Mr. Hegeler was married to the late Bobette Steely. He is survived by his three children,

Alix Shreve Hegeler, Harlin Steely Hegeler and Madelle Goodloe Hegeler.

Also surviving is his special friend and Secretary of the Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation, Mrs. Lois Wise, along with many other friends.

Thank you Mr. Hegeler for a life well lived.

Good-bye Old Friend

by Bob Richard, Executive Director, Danville Public School Foundation.

I first met Julius almost 20 years ago, long before I was the Executive Director of the Danville Public School Foundation. I first became aware of his generosity when I served as a committee member of the AMBUCS Playground for Everyone project.

Julius gave a wonderful gift to help with the initial construction of the playground and on the day of the grand opening he arrived early and swept the sidewalks before the guests arrived. He was truly a hands-on benefactor.

What started as a donor relationship soon turned into a friendship. His stories of his boyhood in Danville, his tales of being a fighter pilot, how he helped found Peterson/Puritan and stories of family filled hours.

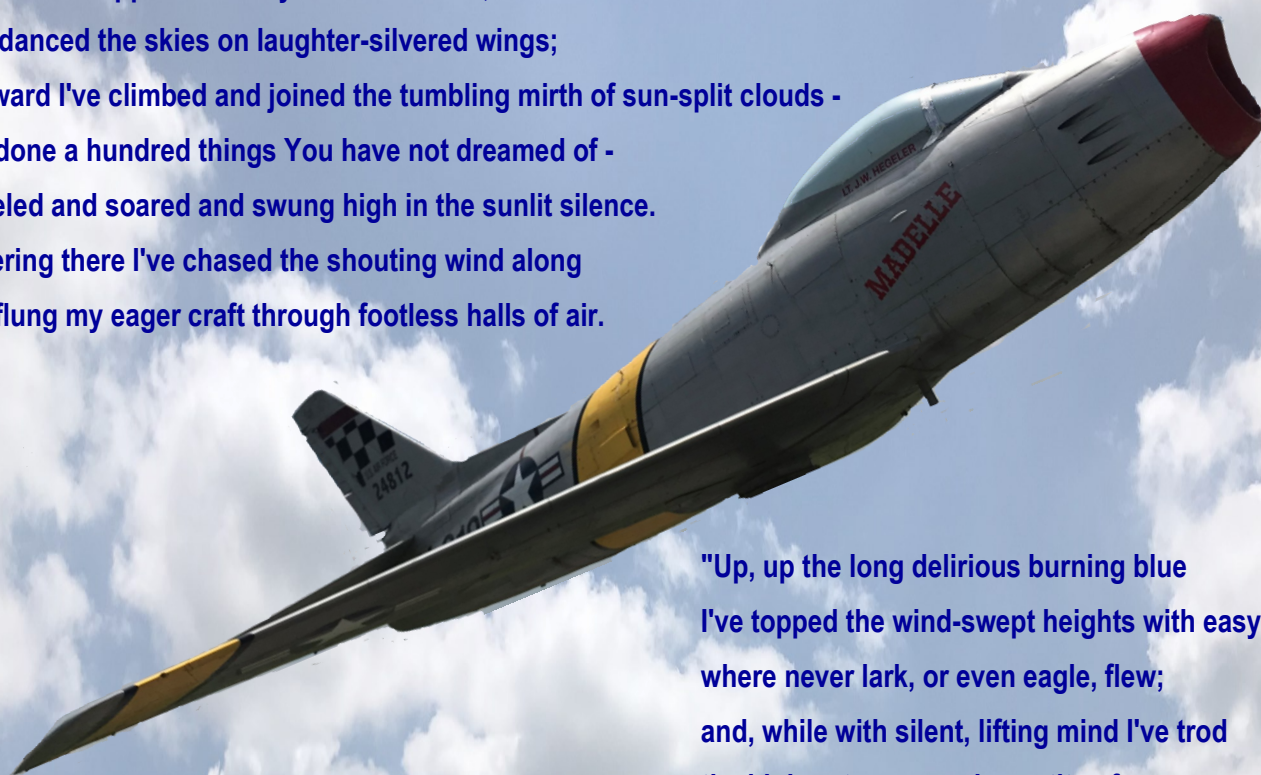
My wife Kathy and I were honored to be part of a group of friends including Frank & Lynn Brunacci, Carl & Tonya Hill, Ron & Mary Norenberg and Gary & Doris Resh who became part of the “supper club” joining Julius and Lois Wise every week for dinner on a rotating basis.

What he did for the Danville Public School Foundation has been amazing, but the greatest gift I received from Julius was the honor of being called his friend. Julius, I will miss you.



Left to right: Bob Richard, Julius W. Hegeler II and Lois Wise.

"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds -
and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of -
wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence.
Hovering there I've chased the shouting wind along
and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.



"Up, up the long delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
and, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
the high untrespassed sanctity of space,
put out my hand and touched the face of God."

High Flight, a Sonnet by John Gillespie Magee
Royal Canadian Air Force

School Foundation establishes Julius W. Hegeler II Scholarship Fund at Danville High School



Julius W. Hegeler II
as a Danville High School
Senior in 1946

In honor of Julius W. Hegeler II, the Danville Public School Foundation has established the **Julius W. Hegeler II Scholarship Fund** with an initial honorarium of \$1,000. Tax deductible gifts can be made by either check, made out to the Danville Public School Foundation (please note on the check it is for the Scholarship Fund), or by credit card by [CLICKING HERE](#). Please send checks to the Danville Public School Foundation, 516 North Jackson Street, Danville, IL 61832.

The Danville Public School Foundation will acknowledge all gifts, and notify the Hegeler Family of all gifts received in support of the scholarship fund.

For more information, you may call the Foundation Office at 217-444-1044 or email us at schoolfoundation@danville118.org.

The Danville Public School Foundation extends its thanks to retired superintendent Mark Denman. Much of the information in this publication came from an article he authored for the February 2009 issue of the *Maroon & White Extra!*. We are honored to have the opportunity to look back on the life of Mr. Hegeler who did so much to improve the lives of so many. – *The Board and Staff of the Danville Public School Foundation*