

Kay Reese Memorial Scholarship

Cherie Kay Holloway was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, on May 3, 1935. Her family moved to Cuero in 1944, which is when and where she met Raymond R. Reese, whom she married in 1956. She graduated from Cuero High School in 1953 and The University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1957. She was a classroom teacher in the Galveston public school system while her husband attended medical school at UTMB. In 1962 they moved back to Cuero where her husband began practicing medicine at Bohman Clinic. At that time, Mrs. Reese decided to stay at home with her children, Rebecca and Ray, though she briefly taught at St. Michael's School in Cuero after they were grown. She taught in numerous settings at Cuero's First Baptist Church, however, from the time she and her husband moved back to Cuero until her health began to fail.

In addition to serving in various roles at First Baptist Church, including Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, choir member, Building and Grounds Committee chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee member, Building Committee member, and founder of the graded children's choir program, she was active in her service to the community. As PTA President, she was instrumental in helping to pass the bond issue, which led to the building of the new John C. French and Hunt Elementary schools in the late 1960's. Her grandchildren, Jordan, Emily, and Pearson, were able to walk the halls of those schools as students. They, in addition to Rebecca and Ray, graduated from Cuero High School. Her daughter, Rebecca, is now retired from a 32-year career in education as both a high school teacher and college professor. Her granddaughter, Emily, is currently a classroom teacher and Math Department Chair at Grand Prairie High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Mrs. Reese's daughter-in-law, Helen, served as Cuero ISD's District Nurse for years. Additionally, her husband of 48 years, Dr. Raymond Reese, served several terms on the Cuero ISD board of trustees, and her son, Ray, was a founding member of the Cuero ISD Education Foundation, serving as President of the Board from its founding in 2002 until the present day. Mrs. Reese firmly believed that education not only benefitted an individual but society at large and firmly instilled that belief in her children and grandchildren.

On February 15, 2005, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease, Mrs. Reese went to her eternal home, but left a legacy of faith, family, service, and education behind. To honor her memory, her family established the Kay Reese Memorial Scholarship that same year to support students who demonstrate academic excellence and faith in God in their endeavors for higher education.



Dr. Raymond R. and Kay Reese
1995