

Karl Stefan Memorial Scholarship

Karl Stefan was born in Bohemia (later called Czechoslovakia) and immigrated with his family to Omaha, Nebraska when he was two years old. Mr. Stefan's first job was in a packing house in Omaha, but through determination he attended YMCA night school to study telegraphy and became one of the youngest and fastest telegraphers in the country. Later he married and moved to Norfolk in 1909. He was employed as a telegrapher of the Norfolk Daily News. Karl Stefan became best known throughout Northeast Nebraska through the medium of radio. He helped build radio station WJAG in 1922. Also, he broadcast programs in seven languages and during World War II frequently appeared on "U.S. Voice of America" broadcasts, speaking to Czechs in his native tongue. In 1934 he ran for Congress in the Third Nebraska District and won. He served 16 years in Congress until his death in 1951. The Karl Stefan Memorial Airport is named in recognition of his enthusiastic backing of aviation development and long service to the Norfolk community. This scholarship is funded through the Stefan family and in conjunction with The Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center in his honor.

Must be used for remission of tuition, fees, room, or board. This scholarship will be awarded upon notification of acceptance prior to the beginning of the first semester of the academic year.

Selection Criteria:

1. Recipient must be a graduating senior with at least average grades.
2. Student will attend an accredited post-secondary institution
3. Must show strong character, citizenship, and involvement in activities.
4. Must write a personal essay (see application).
5. Selection will be made by the NPSF Scholarship Committee.