The recipient of the Richard L. Tourtellotte Family Scholarship should possess these qualities that he embodied.

**Optimism and Opportunity** -- Dad was a "glass is half full" optimist with an easy smile and sunny disposition. He enjoyed providing opportunity and giving people chances to succeed.

**Openness** -- He was a progressive thinker, open to new ideas, new ways of looking at problems and solving them by moving forward, not backward.

**Pragmatism** -- Yet, he understood that any solution to an issue likely had real-world limitations. His success was always grounded by a sense for what could be realistically accomplished.

**Modesty** -- We don't brag.

**Education** -- Owing to his mother and father, dad believed in establishing a foundation from which to grow, and at the core of a strong foundation was, first and always, a good education.

(After our grandfather died, our grandmother returned to Stillwater and OSU to ensure dad and his siblings would receive a college education. With over 100 years of history here, we think of ourselves as part of the fabric of this community. Dad tried to honor that by working his adult life to stem what he called a "brain drain" of Oklahomans who receive their education here then leave. He worked to increase opportunity in OK and help businesses grow. It's important to us that the recipient has similar goals.)

**Pioneering** -- Circling back to optimism, Dad was never afraid to open doors when opportunity knocked. That extended to our forebears who settled here around statehood. We feel like that blend of pioneering spirit and optimism is central to who we are.

-- Debra Tourtellotte Thomas and Robert Tourtellotte
RICHARD TOURTELLOTTE

(December 4, 1931 - September 1, 2012)

OKLAHOMA CITY -- Richard Lee "Dick" Tourtellotte, an Oklahoma City businessman, who was active in the Republican party, died on September 1, at Mercy Hospital surrounded by family and friends after suffering a major stroke. He was 80.

Tourtellotte was a lifelong resident of Oklahoma. He worked in the oil industry, practiced law and developed real estate in Stillwater and Oklahoma City.

Along with his successful career in energy, law and real estate, Tourtellotte worked as a legislative aide for U.S. Senators Henry Bellmon and Don Nickles, Congressman Mickey Edwards, and he ran for Lt. Governor in 1986.

Born December 4, 1931, in Wilburton, Oklahoma to Beatrice Roll Tourtellotte and Edward Everett Tourtellotte, who was president of Eastern Oklahoma College, Richard was the fifth sibling among six brothers and sisters. Their father died when Tourtellotte was just 4-years-old, and his mother moved to Stillwater where she raised her children by renting rooms to university students.

Tourtellotte graduated from Stillwater High School in 1949, and attended Oklahoma State University, graduating in 1954 on the Dean's Honor Roll.

He served in the U.S. Air Force for two years and was stationed in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, where he met his wife, Janella Lansing, with whom he would have three children, Debra, Richard Jr., and Robert.

Following the military, Tourtellotte joined Continental Oil Co., and in 1956 returned to Oklahoma City to become a regional supervisor while studying law at Oklahoma City University.

He graduated from OCU Law in 1964, first in his class. He was named outstanding law graduate of the state of Oklahoma and the 10th Judicial Circuit, and was among the top 10 law graduates in the United States. He entered the legal profession while raising his family in Oklahoma City and pursuing his second professional interest, real estate development.

In the early 1960s, Tourtellotte built his first apartment buildings in Stillwater, beginning some 50 years of construction and development that would see him successfully own and operate apartments and offices.

While working to develop housing for lower income individuals, Tourtellotte saw a need to become involved in public policy and in 1976, he joined the staff of U.S. Senator Henry Bellmon in Washington, D.C.

He began two decades of public service, first as a legislative aide to Bellmon and later as the business community liaison and office manager in Oklahoma City for U.S. Senator Don Nickles from 1982 to 1985. During this time, he worked on a wide range of issues in energy, taxation and business.

In 1986, Tourtellotte ran for Lieutenant Governor, but lost a hard-fought race. He was later appointed regional chairman of the federally-backed Resolution Trust Corp.
Following his time on the RTC, Tourtellotte worked for U.S. Congressman Mickey Edwards, and he would remain a key member of the Oklahoma Republican party throughout the 1990s.

Over the past decade, Tourtellotte focused on real estate and stayed active in the community. He will be remembered as a hard-working, smart and generous man. He loved to sing at the piano bar, hunt for bargains at flea markets, dance with friends and play cards for hours.

Tourtellotte is survived by two brothers and a sister, his daughter Debra Thomas of Edmond and son Robert Tourtellotte of Los Angeles. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, Sept. 7, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Quail Creek Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to the E.E. Tourtellotte Scholarship Fund #21-29700 at Oklahoma State University, which aids agricultural students. Checks can be mailed to: The OSU Foundation, P.O. Box 1749, Stillwater, OK 74076.