

Dr. Lloyd Vincent Family History Heritage Park 2019

The Vincent family is honoring Dr. L.D. Vincent who was instrumental in the development of San Angelo as president of Angelo State for 27 years. He is considered the architect of Angelo State University. A large percentage of the Vincent family are ASU graduates and cherish their degrees signed by their grandfather. The Vincent Family supports ASU as a family. In supporting ASU, they are honoring their patriarch and his devotion and passion for ASU. Dr. Vincent spent the majority of his life serving this community through his affiliation with the university.

Dr. Vincent moved to San Angelo in 1967, when he was chosen as the second president of Angelo State. At that time, ASU had 2000 students and Dr. Vincent had a vision for the university. He was extremely focused and worked hard on his goal to make ASU an integral part of not only San Angelo but, also of West Texas and the State at large. In a significant way, he accomplished those things during his 29 years as ASU'S president.

His son Drex recalls his dad saying, "It's not the mistakes of the mind that matter but instead it is the ones of the heart." Dr. Vincent felt that even in mistakes, if the heart's in the right place, everything will work out. That was his leadership philosophy at Angelo State.

Dr. Vincent was a successful athlete as a high school hurdler and college half miler. His college education was interrupted by the war but he came back and finished school when the war ended. His athletic background made him realize that sports were important to an educational institution. He was a big proponent of Title Nine, which created an equal number of scholarships for men and women. Kathleen Brasfield was one of the first female Athletic Directors in the nation at ASU during Dr. Vincent's tenure. He was ahead of his time in this and many other areas.

Granddaughter Laura Scott recalls that Dr. Vincent paid attention to the smallest detail. If there was trash on the ground, Dr. Vincent would pick it up because no job was too small for him at Angelo State. He focused on campus beautification, even if that meant watering around the campus in the evenings. He was able to convey and instill this same pride and sentiment in his faculty and staff.

Grandson Bryan Vincent shared that his grandfather was a very principled person. This was demonstrated when Dr. Vincent cut his grandson's Carr Scholarship by 25%, because he never wanted anyone to think that the president's family was getting special treatment. ASU'S current president, Dr. Brian May, tells a story about when he first went to work for Dr. Vincent. Dr. May suggested an amount of money that he felt ASU could secure from the State but Dr. Vincent replied, "We're going to ask for what we need and not more." That is the way he led, with integrity and character.

The Carr Scholarship is a landmark achievement of Dr. Vincent's tenure. Dr. Vincent did not specifically ask for help from the Carr family; but the Carr's funded the endowment because of Dr. Vincent's passion for Angelo State, his vision for the university and his friendship with Robert and Nona Carr. For many

years Bob Carr had been a major benefactor of TCU, but he changed directions and made Angelo State the benefactor of the Carr oil and gas royalties.

Dr. Vincent's work ethic was legendary. He would work late into the night. People driving down Avenue N would see his light on late at night. One family member felt that an appropriate monument to Dr. Vincent would be for the Presidential office lights to be on eternally.

Dr. Vincent wanted quality over quantity and had a deep commitment to the caliber of education provided Angelo State students.

If Dr. Vincent returned to campus, the family feels that he would be very proud of the growth ASU has experienced without compromising quality and also very proud of how the campus has been maintained. At the time of his death, ASU was the only school in the state that owed no debt. He would also be proud of the community's support of Angelo State and the involvement of not just graduates, but people who move to San Angelo and come to appreciate the value of ASU in our community.

Dr. Vincent was a physicist. The family takes great pride in ASU'S Physics Department world class reputation. The international student's program that started under Dr. Vincent continues to grow. He would regularly take international students that arrived with only 25 cents and a Snickers bar and put them up in his home until he could help them get established. Numerous international students through the years have spoken about Dr. Vincent's impact on their lives.

Dr. Vincent did not consider himself above picking up trash and attending to the grounds. He was for the big picture, the greater good and the seeds he planted both figuratively and literally have made his time at ASU a lasting legacy. His heart was always in the right place and he laid a great foundation for ASU. He always had good intentions and those intentions were always what was best for the university and the community.

The family also gives credit for much of Dr. Vincent's accomplishments to his wife Johnell. She was a partner and very integral part of his success. She knew the faculty member's names, their spouse, their children, their grandchildren, where they were living, and many students' names and this was a great help to him. She had an amazing ability to connect with people, and they made a great team. She was a lady, a true lady but at the same time she was no-nonsense. She was kind, his support and backbone but took that role in a way that never put her in the spotlight. She ran the show, but she didn't let anybody else know the importance of her role.

Dr. Vincent, with his wife's help, literally would go through hundreds of individual Carr Scholarship applications and pour over them long hours in making that selection process.

Grandson Blake Vincent revealed that it took Dr. Vincent three times to pass freshman physics, and yet he became a nuclear physicist with a PhD in Physics. He said to family "If I'd been born 10 years later, I would have been an astronaut," and they feel that would've been true. He always said that there were people smarter than him but that he could out work them. He understood how hard work can get you to wherever you want to go regardless of your circumstances in life.

If he were here today, Dr. Vincent might address students saying: "We're providing you with an opportunity, but what you make of it is up to you." He would tell anybody that a college degree entitles you to nothing. He'd tell you to get out there and work to earn it. He believed in hard work, and he would emphasize that today hard-working students with integrity who are doing it right always succeed. He believed you honor God when you work hard. He had job offers to go to larger universities, but he chose to stay at Angelo State. History reflects that was a wise choice.

Current ASU president, Dr. Brian May when asked to comment on Dr. Vincent said

“I’m so honored that you have asked me to talk about Dr. Vincent. I tell you...I still think about him daily. I sit at his desk...the same one he had. This is the same office that he had. The furniture in here is much the same as he had during his time. And, often times when I make decisions, I think about what Dr. Vincent would do. If I can do anything to emulate him, I know I’m doing the right thing.”

Dr. Vincent was a visionary. He brought numerous academic programs onto this campus. But what was incredible about Dr. Vincent was his incredible perception and attention to detail. He set up the master plan for this campus not only with the buildings and how they flowed but for the entire student experience. If you really look at it, and if you go in depth, every building is turned to the inside, because he wanted the student experience on this campus to be the most important experience, and he felt if he could get students on this campus that they would want to stay. The only buildings that face out are the original Ave N. structures built before he arrived. It’s one of the most beautiful campuses in the country.

Dr. Vincent had a vision. He had a vision of a high-quality standard for this university and the people who work here and first and foremost a high standard for the student experience, and that’s what his legacy continues to this day.”