



Class of 1980 E. King Gill Selfless Service Award

Howdy!

Thanks to you, the Class of '80 has successfully established the first core value award at Texas A&M University: the **Class of 1980 E. King Gill Selfless Service Award**.

We had hoped to give you a wrap up of the award after the first recipient was named, but due to COVID-19, the public announcement of the first recipient's name has been postponed. The LAUNCH Committee is attempting to set a date for the announcement ceremony that provides high visibility for the Class of 1980 E. King Gill Selfless Service Award and the two other university-wide awards while providing safe attendance for all. Once the recipient is named, we will share the first recipient's details with you in addition to inviting them to the 40 Year Reunion next year.

In this newsletter, we'd like to provide the following:

1. Class of 1980 E. King Gill Selfless Service Award
 - a. A brief overview of the award
 - b. Nominee selection process
 - c. Annual Award Ceremony
 - d. Finalizing the award
 - e. History of the award
 - f. Classmates whose families had personal ties to E. King Gill
 - g. Classmates that serve on the Selfless Service Award committee
2. Class Gifts to date
3. Annual adoption of 12 President's Endowed Scholarship (PES) recipients

OVERVIEW

The entire Class of '80 should be proud that we established this award that annually provides a graduating senior who best exemplifies selfless service a \$4,000 stipend and a physical award to memorialize their achievement! This award is one of the top three university-wide awards alongside the Gates-Muller and the Brown-Rudder awards. A student can only be awarded one of these three awards.

SELECTION PROCESS

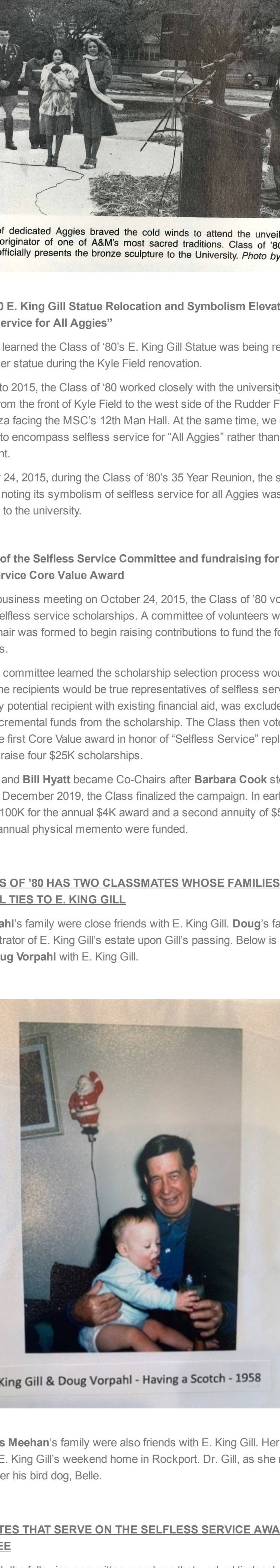
Each January, department heads and professors nominate students they feel fit the criteria for the Selfless Service Award. Once these nominations are complete, the deans of each college and the Vice President of Student Affairs supply a required packet to an anonymous committee consisting of students, faculty and administrators. They select the winner and the awards are presented by the LAUNCH Committee. The Selfless Service Award Committee established the criteria and its weighting that serves as the guide for the anonymous committee to select the annual recipient.

ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

Each year, the LAUNCH Committee will present the award at the end of the spring semester. Representatives of the Class of '80 will be invited to attend that ceremony each year. The recipients will remain anonymous until their names are announced during the LAUNCH Committee ceremony. This means all the final nominees will be present when the award recipient is announced.

FINALIZING THE AWARD

Members of our Class contributed over \$100K to establish this award which provides for an annual \$4,000 check along with a physical memento of the award. For the first award, Jeff Mason donated his personal miniature replica of the E. King Gill Statue (our first Class gift). Interestingly, his casting was number "12" of the miniature castings that were sold to fund the purchase of the E. King Gill Statue. The committee is currently investigating cost to provide a similar replica annually as the memento to be given in addition to the monetary award. Watch for future communications relating to this memento.



HISTORY

The Class of '80 has a rich history in the area of selfless service. The following steps led to what has become the first award recognizing one of the six Texas A&M University core values.

First Class Gift – 12th Man Statue of E. King Gill

During our sophomore year of 1977-78, the idea for our first class gift (12th Man Statue) was presented in a Class Council meeting by **Marjorie Nicholson** of Squadron 14.

Over the next two years, the decision was finalized and funding to make the idea a reality came through several sources.

- Sponsorship of the freshman dances in the summer before our junior and senior years
- Selling Class t-shirts
- Selling miniature statues at \$150/each
- Donating room deposits to the Class gift fund

On March 1, 1980, the class dedicated the original 12th Man Statue to the university. **Paul Gulig** was the Chair of the Gift Committee and **Mark Murphy** was Class President.



A small crowd of dedicated Aggies braved the cold winds to attend the unveiling of the statue recognizing the originator of one of A&M's most sacred traditions, Class of '80 President Mark Murphy, above, officially presents the bronze sculpture to the University. Photo by Ken Moses '80.

Class of '80 E. King Gill Statue Relocation and Symbolism Elevation to "Selfless Service for All Aggies"

In 2013, we learned the Class of '80's E. King Gill Statue was being replaced with a much larger statue during the Kyle Field renovation.

From 2013 to 2015, the Class of '80 worked closely with the university to move the statue from the front of Kyle Field to the west side of the Rudder Fountain in Rudder Plaza facing the MSC's 12th Man Hall. At the same time, we elevated the symbolism to encompass selfless service for "All Aggies" rather than just the athletic event.

On October 24, 2015, during the Class of '80's 35 Year Reunion, the statue with a new plaque noting its symbolism of selfless service for all Aggies was rededicated to the university.

Formation of the Selfless Service Committee and fundraising for the Selfless Service Core Value Award

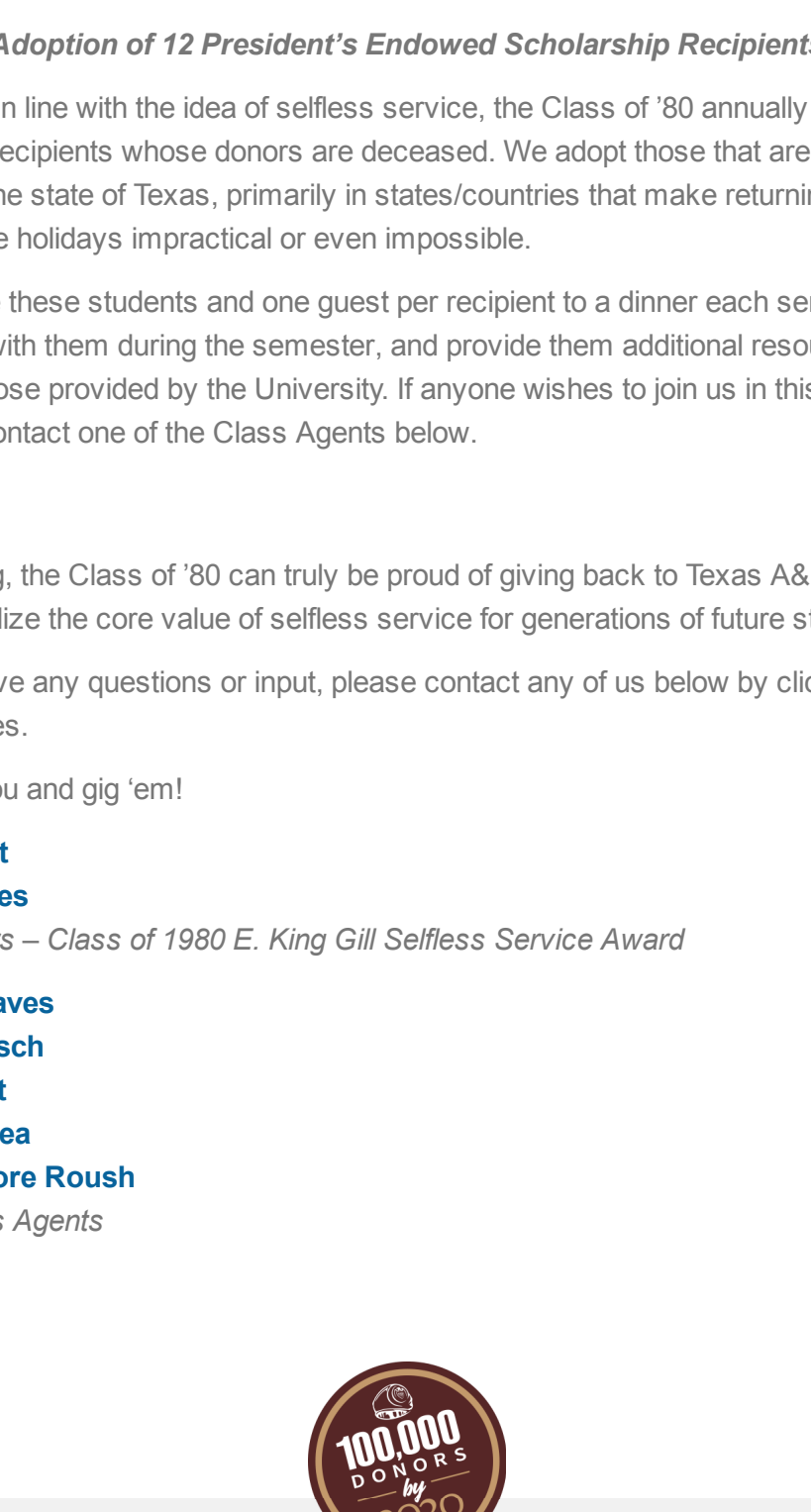
During the business meeting on October 24, 2015, the Class of '80 voted to fund four \$25K selfless service scholarships. A committee of volunteers with **Barbara Cook** as Chair was formed to begin raising contributions to fund the four scholarships.

In 2018, the committee learned the scholarship selection process would not guarantee the recipients would be true representatives of selfless service. In addition, any potential recipient with existing financial aid, was excluded from receiving incremental funds from the scholarship. The Class then voted to establish the first Core Value award in honor of "Selfless Service" replacing the mandate to raise four \$25K scholarships.

Ken Jones and **Bill Hyatt** became Co-Chairs after **Barbara Cook** stepped down as Chair. In December 2019, the Class finalized the campaign. In early 2020, the annuity of \$100K for the annual \$4K award and a second annuity of \$5K to provide an annual physical memento were funded.

THE CLASS OF '80 HAS TWO CLASSMATES WHOSE FAMILIES HAD PERSONAL TIES TO E. KING GILL

Doug Vorpahl's family were close friends with E. King Gill. **Doug's** father was the administrator of E. King Gill's estate upon Gill's passing. Below is a 1958 photo of **Doug Vorpahl** with E. King Gill.



Nancy Sims Meehan's family were also friends with E. King Gill. Her family frequented E. King Gill's weekend home in Rockport. Dr. Gill, as she refers to him, gave her his bird dog, Belle.

CLASSMATES THAT SERVE ON THE SELFLESS SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE

Please thank the following committee members that worked tirelessly to make the establishment of this first core value award a reality.

Mark Akin
George Black
Red Brown
Don Constantine
Jim Edge
Paul Gulig
Lucien Harris
Reed Helmly
Brooks Herring
David Hruzek
Scott Hutchins
Bill Hyatt
Ken Jones
Ron Kapavik
Dan Layton
Jeff Mason
Kathy McCoy
Patty Rabel
Kyle Sears
David Spencer
Scott Terry
Paul Tortorici
Deborah Wright
The five Class Agents

CLASS GIFTS TO DATE

12th Man Statue – our first Class gift. The statue now permanently stands on the west side of the Rudder Fountain in Rudder Plaza facing the MSC's 12th Man Hall. A little known fact is the statue's head is positioned so that Kyle Field can be seen between Rudder Tower and the MSC.

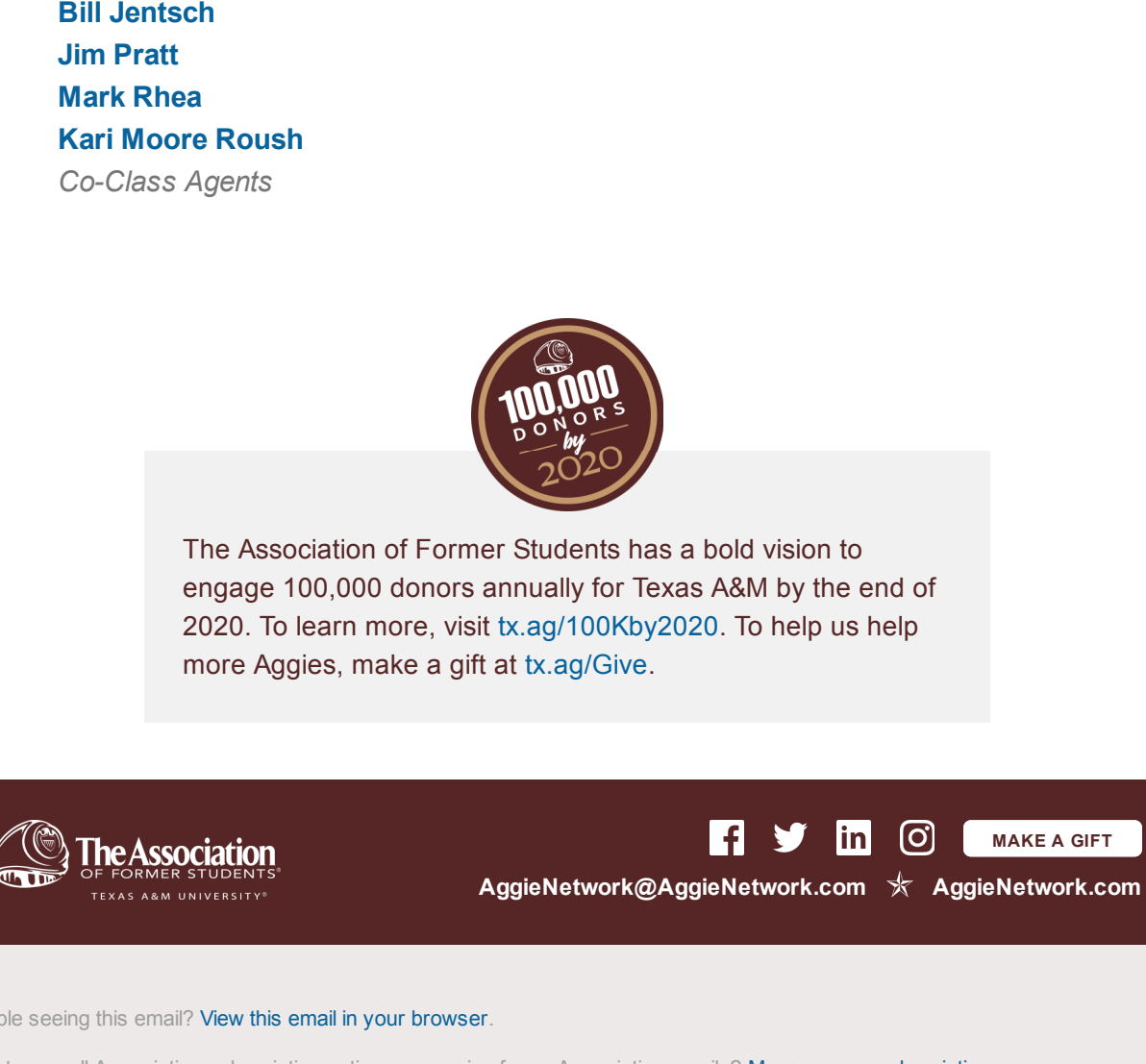
President's Endowed Scholarship – This was our second Class gift and it provides one student approximately \$4,000 annually in scholarship funds.

Memorial Scholarship – An Endowed Opportunity Award which honors Classmates that have died in the line of duty provides one student approximately \$1,000 in scholarship funds annually. The honorees to date are **Ken McGuire**, **Bruce Netardus**, and **Ken McCullough**. The gift agreement is set up with the recipients to be selected using the following hierarchy:

1. Descendants of the honorees
2. Descendants of the Class of '80 members
3. Open to all other applicants

Memorial Student Center Pillar – The Class of '80 donated a \$100K gift to Texas A&M University as part of the 2012 MSC Renovation. The plaque shown below is located on the west side of the MSC. Stop by when you are in the MSC.

E. King Gill Statue Relocation and Elevation to Selfless Service for All Aggies. [Click here to see rededication pamphlet.](#)



Class of 1980 E. King Gill Selfless Service Award – This award provides a \$4,000 stipend annually to the graduating senior that best exemplifies Texas A&M's core value of selfless service. This is the first of the six core values for which an award has been fully funded.

Annual Adoption of 12 President's Endowed Scholarship Recipients:

Keeping in line with the idea of selfless service, the Class of '80 annually adopts 12 PES recipients whose donors are deceased. We adopt those that are from outside the state of Texas, primarily in states/countries that make returning home during the holidays impractical or even impossible.

We invite these students and one guest per recipient to dinner each semester, interact with them during the semester, and provide them additional resources above those provided by the University. If anyone wishes to join us in this effort, please contact one of the Class Agents below.

In closing, the Class of '80 can truly be proud of giving back to Texas A&M to memorialize the core value of selfless service for generations of future students!

If you have any questions or input, please contact any of us below by clicking on our names.

Thank you and gig 'em!

Bill Hyatt
Ken Jones
Co-Chairs – Class of 1980 E. King Gill Selfless Service Award

Sara Beaves
Bill Jentsch
Jim Pratt
Mark Rhea
Kari Moore Roush
Co-Class Agents



The Association of Former Students has a bold vision to engage 100,000 donors annually for Texas A&M by the end of 2020. To learn more, visit tx.ag/100Kby2020. To help us help more Aggies, make a gift at tx.ag/Give.