Legacy of AGCM Charles R. Jordan

Editor's Note: I recently had the pleasure of speaking with longtime NWSA member Ann Jordan, widow of AGCM Charles R. "Charlie" Jordan, USN (Ret.). As many of you know, Charlie was the Editor of the Aerograph for many years. During our conversation, and through subsequent correspondence, Ann shared with me that her son, Kevin, has initiated a Memorial Scholarship Fund in Charlie's memory. His wonderful tribute to his father follows.

On January 29, 2023, Charles R. Jordan "Charlie Jordan" left behind a legacy, and he was an Abilene icon. From the days of being on KRBC, KTAB, and KTXS while making his own weather forecasts and talking to the Big Country on air. He always wanted them to be able to listen to his forecasts and plan their crop growth, tending to their cattle, or daily activities accordingly. He was very proud of his over 95% accuracy rate in forecasting Big Country weather, which is typically very erratic. He was also known for showing the massive vegetables that were grown by local residents in the area. As the vegetables started coming into the local TV station, he started giving them out to the Abilene Food Bank so that others could enjoy the fruits (and veggies) of the labor. Through that interaction, he took a leadership role with Abilene Food Bank and ultimately the Abilene Boys Ranch, as it was known then. To make the Ranch more marketable and have a wider reach, he was instrumental in changing the name to the Ben Richey Boys Ranch. As Executive Director, he took a very hands-on approach and worked with the boys at the ranch and, many times, invited them to his house for the Christmas holidays because they didn't have a place to go. Note: His two (2) children were grown and already moved away, so this meant welcoming "kiddos" into his house. After the boys left Ben Richey Boys Ranch and moved away, they typically continued sending Charlie and his wife, Ann, Christmas cards.

Charlie loved his wife, his kids (and dogs), and being involved in the community. One of his sayings from his old Navy days (25 years in the Navy) was "a rising tide lifts all boats" and "if you do better, we, as a community, do better." He instilled in others a "strive for excellence and always be better than average." An example of this is when his son was playing football; he had to maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to continue playing football. But he always said, "If you want to be a plumber, be the best plumber you can be. If you want to be a mechanic, be the best mechanic you can be. If you want to be a lawyer, be the best lawyer you can be. However, just have a skill and strive for excellence."

The Charlie Jordan Memorial Scholarship Fund is established so that boys from the Ben Richey Boys Ranch who strive for excellence but need a helping hand and guidance can help meet the financial burden of obtaining a skill to be productive in life. If you would like to make a contribution through the Community Foundation of Abilene, please visit the following link:

https://cfa.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=4855

Closing note from Ann – In regard to the veggies, that summer it was 100 degrees EVERY day. So, Charlie came up with the idea of having people bring in their veggies as a tool to increase viewership. Who wants to watch the weather if it is a constant 100 degrees every day? And it worked! They were the most popular broadcasts for a while. And that increased ratings and increased revenue. It made Charlie well known. In the grocery store in Gunnison CO a guy called out from across the store - Hi Charlie! He was well known. When my husband passed, our son started this foundation. I didn't find out about it until this July. As a teacher in the LA school district, he was only able to send a little each month. Now, for the first time, the foundation will be able to offer a scholarship to a boy for college or a trade school beginning in May 2027.