Supporting Generations of Commodores

For Bob Levy, BA’72, and his wife Diane, making a Vanderbilt education possible for the nation’s top students — regardless of their background or ability to pay — has been a goal for decades.

Since 1997, the retired chairman of Chicago investment firm Harris Associates, L.P., and his wife have achieved their aspiration, creating an endowed scholarship fund. By making a gift to the endowment, their support is perpetual and produces scholarship awards year after year — so far, they’ve made a Vanderbilt education a reality for more than a dozen undergraduates.

“Vanderbilt wants the best students, not the best students who can afford to go there.” That statement from Mr. Levy perfectly expresses the philosophy that undergirds Opportunity Vanderbilt, the university’s campaign to level the educational playing field by meeting 100 percent of students’ financial need without loans. The Levy scholarship has made a world of difference for many of our students and continues to fuel our goal of accessibility for the most qualified students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Witnessing these students fulfilling their ambitions inspired the Levys to expand their substantial Vanderbilt legacy through an additional financial commitment: a bequest to further their support of diversity and inclusion at Vanderbilt through the Diane v.S. Levy and Robert M. Levy Scholarship.

“It makes me even more enthusiastic about what we’re doing at Vanderbilt,” Mr. Levy explains.

This generous addition to the Levy scholarship will give that chance to even more students in the future. Philanthropic leadership and foresight from the Levy family through their gifts and bequests serve as continual motivation for our community while encouraging and equipping future generations of Commodores to dream boldly and contribute to a better world.

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Making the Most of Your Will Power

It has been said that your will can be the final expression of your values. The individuals, institutions and causes that are remembered in your will tell quite a bit about you. A document of such importance deserves careful preparation to achieve your objectives. And it takes careful planning to achieve optimum benefits from the assets of your estate. Many factors affect the creation of an effective will.

Your Will — A Vital Document

Perhaps the most important benefit of creating a valid will is the opportunity to specify how you wish your assets to be distributed. Your wishes are unique, and only through a valid will can you be assured that those wishes will be carried out.

You may have items of tangible personal property, for example, that you wish to transfer to specific beneficiaries. Your will can accomplish such a transfer; because the needs of each of your beneficiaries are probably different, your will can include provisions addressing the specific needs of your loved ones.

Your will is a very powerful instrument. If it is thoughtfully prepared and carefully drafted, it can provide peace of mind for both you and your beneficiaries.

Use a Bequest to Make a Contribution That Might Not Have Been Possible During Your Lifetime

Each year thousands of individuals, exercising their privilege to determine the final distribution of their estates, designate that a portion of their assets be used for the benefit and support of America’s charitable organizations.

Gifts by will have become an integral part of the American philanthropic tradition because they enable people to make significant contributions that might not have been possible during their lifetimes.

Gifts by will can be tailored to meet your own specific personal and financial objectives. For example, you may wish to express your bequest as a percentage of your...
A percentage bequest can protect beneficiaries against a shrinking estate.

The right to determine who is to receive what upon your death is a tremendous advantage from both personal and financial perspectives. True, you will incur some expense in having a will drafted, and you will need to invest some time to communicate your desires to a competent attorney. But once done, it will be one of the wisest investments you’ll ever make in terms of both money management and peace of mind.
Reunion images from 50 years ago might not appear as crisp and clear on the page as those from our 2017 celebration, but all our connections with fellow Commodores remain as vivid as ever. With more than 700 volunteers, 5,304 alumni and guests and reunion gifts and pledges totaling more than $55,000,000, our 2017 Reunion proves that our colors hardly fade with time.

Start Planning Your Will Now with Our Complimentary Will-Planning Guide!

*Your Will: A Powerful Tool for Supporting Your Family — And Charity* shows how to:

- Protect your family and control the distribution of your assets.
- Save taxes for your loved ones.
- Use charitable bequests to support your loved ones — and our work.

To request the guide, return the enclosed reply card or call (615) 343-3113.
Please send me a complimentary copy of your new guide, *Your Will: A Powerful Tool for Supporting Your Family — And Charity*

I would like information about making a gift to Vanderbilt University that would also provide income for me and/or others.

I would like additional information about including a gift to Vanderbilt University in my will or living trust.

I have already included  
I would consider including a gift to Vanderbilt University in my will or living trust.

Return This Card and Start Planning Your Will

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