

Donald McDonald '63

David Cullum Award for Service to the University

Mr. McDonald's passion for MTSU aerospace has continued long after he acquired his private pilot's license here in 1958. Donald had to cut short his own flight training while a sophomore at MTSU in the 1950s due to a lack of family funds. He spent some time in the U.S. Navy's flight school, but eventually returned to MTSU and settled on an engineering technology degree.

He and his wife Frances have remained avid MTSU supporters with both their time and resources throughout the years. They provided funds for the newest hangar at the Flight Operations Center at Murfreesboro Airport which was named for him - The Donald McDonald Aerospace Maintenance Laboratory. As past director of operations of Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp, he shares his business expertise by serving on the MTSU Foundation Board and Aerospace Advisory Board. The McDonalds established an endowed scholarship for engineering studies and aerospace students.

The McDonalds open their home and personal hangar to aerospace students and faculty and attend many MTSU functions. Their love and passion for MTSU is exemplified by their financial commitment to MTSU's future and their continued involvement in university boards.

MTSU aerospace students are impacted every day by the generosity of the McDonalds, saying, "not a day goes by that I don't think about the fact that this scholarship has given me the opportunity to chase down my dream of being a pilot."