

## **Dr. Burl E. Gilliland Memorial Scholarship**

Dr. Burl E. Gilliland, Captain, U.S. Navy Ret., was a respected, accomplished scholar who was instrumental in the development of the PhD in Counseling Psychology program in the College of Education at the University of Memphis.

Dr. Dick James, his colleague and co-author of the textbooks *Theories and Strategies in Counseling and Psychotherapy* and *Crisis Intervention Strategies*, wrote of Dr. Gilliland:

“Burl was a visionary. He started a class in crisis intervention in 1973, long before anyone even thought that crisis intervention would become the important field in psychotherapy that it is today....His decision to help start a Crisis Intervention Team program for the Memphis Police Department is an excellent example of his vision of where things are going in this field. That program is respected nationwide for training police officers and mental health workers from all over the country in how police should handle those who are mentally ill.”

Dr. Gilliland retired as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus in 1997 after nearly 25 years at the University of Memphis. During his years at the University, he was twice elected by students and faculty to be the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Service Award. At his retirement, to commemorate his contribution to their lives, his doctoral students planted a water oak tree on the University campus.

In addition to being a professor and a licensed professional psychologist, Dr. Gilliland was also a school teacher, a high school counselor, and a decorated veteran of WWII and the Korean War.

In 1978, Dr. Gilliland was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Award in recognition of his devotion to the ideals of social justice and non-violence. For almost a decade, Dr. Gilliland was the chief trainer for the staff of the Memphis City Schools' Division of Race Relations. He was also a member of the University team that facilitated the court-ordered integration of the faculties and staff of area school districts in the 1970s. Dr. James wrote:

“He was the most caring, accepting, empathetic, unconditionally positively regarding, congruent, concrete individual I have ever known. He was a champion of human rights, whether they had to do with race, color, cultural background, sexual preference, or any other condition that might set one person apart from another.”

The Dr. Burl E. Gilliland Memorial Scholarship was established by his wife, Martha, and is also supported through contributions made by his friends and former students.