

## FOUNDATION TIES

Ms. Margaret Munro • Donor • John J. Munro III Memorial Scholarship

As a frequent guest on the Lee Janot show, John was heard by many listeners throughout Southwest Louisiana. One of the listeners was the family of Jennifer Brantley from Jennings. The family used to sit around and listen to the radio to hear John J. Munro sing.

*Written July 1997*

...I'm writing in search of information concerning the music of John Munro. A memorial scholarship fund was set up in his name, I believe in the late 60s. Our family purchased the record album of his recordings. Sadly in moving, it seems to have been lost forever. I had hopes th[at] McNeese would have a copy of the album and that I could purchase a copy. Coming from a family of nine children, our fun was guitar playing and family gatherings. John Munro made a big impression on our family and we watched him on the Lee Janot show out of Lake Charles each time he appeared to play his guitar...  
Sincerely,  
Jennifer Brantley

*Written August 1997*

...I wish to thank you for forwarding my letter concerning the search of John Munro's album to his parents. Mrs. Munro contacted me and was kind to replace the album along with some additional music. My husband and I love music and appreciate the music we grew up with—and John Munro's album was part of my family's past—and now ours...  
Sincerely,  
Fred and Jennifer Brantley and Elaine Green (mother)

*"The scholarship was a 'god send.' I felt honored to be the first person to receive the award because it was obvious how much it meant to the Munros and how blessed they were to have a wonderful son, even if it was for only a short time. The biggest testament that I can give is that 25 years later I still keep in touch with Marge and consider her a friend. She has followed my career over the years and I think she is just as proud as any parent when one of her recipients moves up in the world."*

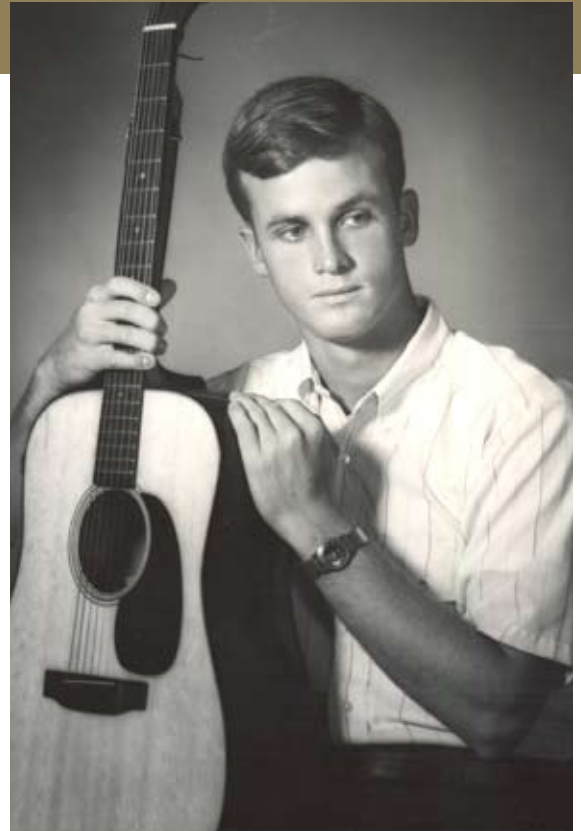
*Kevin Hannen, Owner*

*Hannen & Associates*

## A LIFE FILLED WITH PROMISE

Mrs. Margaret Munro and the late Mr. John Munro Jr. established the John J. Munro III Memorial Scholarship in February 1969 to honor their son who died in an automobile accident. John was a senior speech major at McNeese State University.

John, the only child of the Munros, was a blessing to his parents and the community. His grandfather's gift of a guitar, given to John at an early age, began a legacy of song writing, ballads and folk music that has stood the test of time. While living in Albuquerque, N.M., John studied under a Juilliard Music Conservatory graduate. His father's military career and his mother's modeling school profession moved the Munros to several destinations over the years before the family finally settled in Southwest Louisiana, home to his mother's family—the Fisks.



A brief look into the Lake Charles American Press archives produced the following:

*Legal Secretaries install officers (May 23, 1968): "Entertainment was furnished by John Munro, who sang a medley of songs..."*

*Quoto Club holds installation dinner (May 23, 1968): "Musical selections were presented by John Munro."*

*LCLT's "Dirty Work" is an evening of laughs, song (July 19, 1968): "There are entertaining and in-between acts...and nice looking and talented John Munro singing and playing the guitar."*

John also appeared on radio and television, including the Lee Janot show on KPLC-TV as well as stints in St. Louis and Kansas City. And if sharing his talents through music while pursuing his degree weren't enough, John also taught swimming and guitar at the YMCA.

The *John J. Munro III Memorial Scholarship*, designated for a junior or senior student demonstrating financial need, has touched the lives of students from several fields of study.

Mrs. Munro isn't the only one that continues to listen to the music recorded by her son. According to Marianne White, coordinator of planned giving and donor research for the McNeese Foundation, "John's beautiful voice accompanied by the strings of his guitar resonate so clearly that when listening to his CD, it seems like John is playing live in the next room."

John is never far from his mother's heart. She has stated her intention that John's memory will not only continue through the established *John J. Munro III Memorial Scholarship*, but also, as a member of The 1939 Living Oak Society, through a planned gift left by bequest. The memorial scholarship made in John's memory will touch the lives of countless students at McNeese for many years to come.

Mrs. Munro said that "by mentioning his name my son is remembered and hearing his name is like music to my ears."