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**SWWDC launches drive to fund Philip A. Parker Memorial Scholarship**  
*Scholarship named to honor jobs advocate*

**Vancouver, Wash. (Sep. 29, 2014)** – To honor its long-time board member, friend and jobs advocate, Philip A. Parker, who died earlier this year, the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) has established the Philip A. Parker Memorial Scholarship fund and is accepting donations.

“Phil was a champion for jobs-creation projects and cared deeply about young people,” said Jeanne Bennett, SWWDC’s Chief Executive Officer. “We’re pleased to honor him in this way and hope those who knew and admired Phil will contribute to the scholarship program.”

Funds collected will provide scholarships for youth, ages 16-24, that demonstrate progress towards a pathway in the trades. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, plan to attend an accredited institution and live in Clark, Cowlitz or Wahkiakum counties.

Donations to the scholarship fund can be made by check payable to SWWDC, and mailed to 805 Broadway, Suite 412, Vancouver, WA 98660. Attn: Accounting. Please note “Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund” on the check.

“Phil was always a steady voice of reason and wisdom for me,” said Mike Bridges of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council and an SWWDC board member. “I so appreciated the way he helped me understand some of the more complex issues that weren't always as black and white as I might have thought them to be. Sometimes I didn't understand until hours or days later upon reflecting on what he had said, but that was the beauty of Phil's personality to me.”

Parker, a retired journeyman electrician, served almost nine years as an SWWDC member and on the executive board. A veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, Parker had been reappointed by Governor Inslee for a second term as a Washington State Transportation Commissioner. He also served as Chair of the Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington and on the Clark County Public Facilities District. Previously, he had served as a member of the Washington State Electrical Board, was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) for more than 35 years, on the Clark County Planning Commission for 14 years, and served as an officer and executive board member of Local 48 in Portland.

A supporter of programs for youth, Parker had in prior years been an electrical apprenticeship program instructor, a member of the Tech Prep Advisory Committee for Clark College and a Boy Scout leader.

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC brings together funding, state agencies, service providers, colleges, economic development and community organizations to provide employment and training services to businesses, job seekers and youth. Learn more at [www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org).

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