This scholarship was established by Mr. Johnnie Nelson in memory of his wife, Gloria Willingham Nelson, who tragically died in a motorcycle accident in the Poudre Canyon, CO.

Gloria was born Feb. 16, 1959 in Hobbs, NM. She grew up on the Mosely Ranch, south of Karval, CO. She was active in both sports and rodeo and loved horses and her cats.

After graduation from Karval High School, Gloria attended Panhandle State University on a volleyball and basketball scholarship. While at PSU, she met her husband, Johnnie Nelson. They were known as “the Hippie and the Cowgirl”. They made their home in Guymon, Okla. for 15 years, where Gloria
made many friends racing horses. Gloria worked for NRCS as a soil technician while living in Los Lunas and then Aztec.

Gloria lived life to the fullest with grace and always a smile on her face. She enjoyed RVing and riding her Harley-Davidson motorcycle across the United States.