

Colonel William Holmes Memorial Scholarship

Colonel William Holmes, a retired Army officer, delighted in his opportunities to interact with Cornerstone students over several decades, teaching them history and civics. His passing in 2019 left a hole in our community. To honor his memory, Voices of Vets, an organization he helped to create, has established a memorial scholarship of \$300 for a Cornerstone student who best captures Colonel Holmes' dedication to veterans of the armed services: the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, and the Coast Guard.

Eligibility: All Cornerstone students, grades 9 through 12 are invited to apply.

Use of Award: The Colonel William Holmes Memorial Scholarship is intended to advance the education of Cornerstone students in history and civics. As such, funds awarded may be used to support academic achievement including tuition, school supplies, books, extracurricular activities supported by Cornerstone, or postgraduate education.

Requirement: Interview a veteran of the armed services. Through the interview, gain an understanding of what service meant to the veteran, when and where they served, and what they would like remembered about their service. Prepare a 500-word essay summarizing these key points of the interview and offering your own thoughts on service in the armed forces and what it means for our nation. The manuscript must be created in Microsoft Word (or a PDF may be submitted if you use another program).

Evaluation Criteria: Essays will be evaluated by a team of reviewers selected by the Voices of Vets Board of Directors based on the criteria below:

- Addresses the value of military service—The essay effectively takes into account the entirety of military service. If an essay does not make an earnest attempt to address the value of military service, it will not be considered for review.
- Focus—The thesis/main message is clear and supported throughout. The essay does not stray from the main message.
- Organization & Structure—The essay is organized and well-structured. Author demonstrates command of grammar, spelling and mechanics.
- Voice/Originality—The essay uses a highly engaging and personal style. The author finds fresh or interesting ways to convey ideas. The author approaches the topic from a unique perspective.
- Evidence of Personal Reflection—The essay demonstrates that the author has genuinely explored the topic/question and how it relates to his or her own life. The essay reflects a depth in reflection.

Key Dates: Electronically submit the completed manuscript to kmccreedy1954@gmail.com no later than **1 August 2020** at 5PM ET. The winner will be identified on 17 August and the check will be presented on 25 August at a free Voices of Vets Concert at the Elks Club's Camp Barrett.

We hope this will be a rewarding experience that will spark a lifetime appreciation for service to the nation. Please direct any question to Colonel (Retired) Ken McCreedy at kmccreedy1954@gmail.com.

***If you don't know a veteran to interview, please reach out to Maryland's Veteran Home located in Charlotte Hall. They will connect you with a veteran who would love to share their story with you. You can email Ashley Radano, Director of Recreational Services at: aradano@hmrmd.com.

