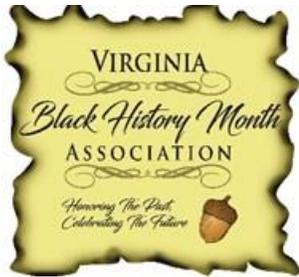


The Virginia Black History Month Association **Major John C. Taylor, Jr Scholarship of Courage**



The 2024 Black History Month National Theme:
"African Americans and the Arts"



Major John C. Taylor, Jr.

What: The Virginia Black History Month Association **Major John C. Taylor, Jr. Scholarship of Courage.**

When: The scholarship application deadline is **Friday, February 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Where: The **24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 24, 2024** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park Hotel**, 3111 Fairview Park Dr, Falls Church, VA 22042.

Who: All Virginia High School students enrolled in any Virginia **Public, Private or Home School** in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.

Why: To honor the legacy of two-time bronze star recipient, father, husband and community leader retired United States Army, Major John C. Taylor, Jr.

The Monetary Award
\$500.00

Two Winners Will Receive:

- A monetary award from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- Two complimentary tickets to the 24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- A large poster-size check with his/her name, school and monetary award written on the check.
- A complimentary family portrait with a professional photographer at the Gala.
- A Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.

Major John C. Taylor, Jr. Scholarship of Courage

Applicant's Information

1. Applicant's Name: _____
2. Applicant's Home Address: _____
3. Applicant's Home Phone Number: (____) _____
4. Applicant's Contact E-mail Address: _____
5. Applicant's Signature & Date: _____
6. Parent's Cell Phone Number: (____) _____

Applicant's School Verification Information (Completed by School Counselor)

7. Applicant's High School: _____
 - Applicant's Grade (as of fall of 2023): _____
 - Applicant's Grade Point Average (as of fall of 2023): _____
 - Applicant's School Activities:

 - Applicant's Plans After High School: (*check one*) 4 yr. college: 2 yr. college:
 - School Counselor's Name: _____
 - School Counselor's Phone Number: _____
 - School Counselor's Signature: _____
 - Date: _____

Applicant's Community and Civic Activities

1. Civic Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

2. Civic Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

3. Civic Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

4. Civic Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

5. Leadership Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

6. Leadership Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

7. Leadership Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

8. Leadership Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

9. Sports Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

10. Sports Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

11. Sports Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

12. Sports Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

13. Music Activity: _____ Dates Active: _____

• Representative Signature & Date: _____

The Rules

1. This scholarship is open to all Virginia High School students enrolled in any Virginia Public, Private or Home School in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.
2. The scholarship application deadline ends on **Friday, February 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**
3. Entries should be limited to two pages plus the application form and cover sheet.
4. Each entry must be signed by the student, school counselor and civic representative(s).
5. The entry must be submitted on time. (No late entries will be accepted)
6. Include the title of your entry on both the first page of the essay and on the cover sheet.

How to Enter: In 500 words or less, write your response to the questions below:

Essay: The life and trailblazing achievements of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Ketanji Onyika Brown Jackson.

Background: The Supreme Court held a special sitting on September 30, 2022, for the formal investiture ceremony of Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff attended as guests of the Court. On June 30, 2022, Justice Jackson took the oaths of office to become the 104th Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. (*Supreme Court Justice of the United States, 2024*) **Question(s):** When did she know what she wanted to do in life? After graduating from Harvard University, when did she envision going to Harvard Law School? When did she foresee herself in becoming a Judge? Was that her ultimate goal in life? Did she ever think she would become the first African American woman Supreme Court Justices?

7. **Judging Criteria & Rules:** The winners are selected by a neutral judging panel and rated in five areas:

a. **Criteria**

- (1) All Virginia High School students enrolled in any Virginia Public, Private or Home School in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.
- (2) Good Academic Standing
- (3) Participation in the local community through civic programs and volunteerism
- (4) Plans to attend college after graduation from High School
- (5) Quality of Essay

b. **Rules:** The judging will take place under the supervision of **Dr. Denise Lambert**, a Strategic Resource Analyst and Community Leader. The final decision will be determined by **Dr. Eve Taylor**, Chaplain, Evangelist, and founder of the "Discover Your Why" Leadership Ministries, Inc., and widow of Major John C. Taylor, Jr.

- (1) Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges.
- (2) All decisions are final.
- (3) The winner will be notified by phone call by Monday, February 19, 2024.

8. Send a cover sheet with your entry and include the following information: Title of the entry, name, home address, applicant phone number, parent name, and cell phone number.
9. **Note:** Mail all entries to: The Virginia Black History Month Association Major John C. Taylor, Jr. Scholarship of Courage, P.O. Box 41924, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 16, 2024.
10. The Gala Details: Awards will be presented during **the 24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala on Saturday, February 24, 2024 (Please arrive by 5:15pm)**. We would like for the winning contestants to be present at the Gala. Each winner and one parent will be given a free complimentary ticket to attend. Additional tickets are available for purchase.

**The Virginia Black History Month Association
Major John C. Taylor, Jr. Scholarship of Courage**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>
Completed Application	Application must be completed in full to be considered.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Application delivered <u>on time</u> before the cutoff date	Must be postmarked before 5:00pm February 16, 2024.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Essay Submitted with Application	Received essay and application.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
The Word Count Limitation	500 words or less.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Clearly Address the Essay Topic (Max 20 points)	Question(s): When did she know what she wanted to do in life? After graduating from Harvard University, when did she envision going to Harvard Law School? When did she foresee herself in becoming a Judge? Was that her ultimate goal in life? Did she ever think she would become the first African American woman Supreme Court Justices?	Essay Topic Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answered All Questions– 25 points • Answered Most Questions – 15 points • Answered Half the Questions – 5 points • Vaguely answered – 5 points
Grade Point Average (GPA) Report Card/Transcripts (Max 20 points)	Will accept the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application w/signatures • Official Sealed High School Transcripts • Official Report Card • Signed Letter from the School 	Grade Point Average <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 GPA – 25 points • 3.5 GPA – 20 points • 3.0 GPA – 15 points • 2.5 GPA – 10 points
Spelling and Proper Grammar (Max 20 points)	Spelling and Proper Grammar.	Spelling and Grammar Errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four or Less Errors – 25 points • Between 5 – 7 errors – 20 points • Between 8 – 10 errors – 15 points • Between 11– 13 errors – 10 points • More than 14 errors – 5 points
Community or Civic Activities (Max 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application. • Signed Letter from Organization. • Example: Hospitals, Scouting, or Boys & Girls Club. 	2.5 points for each activity
Leadership Experience (Max 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application. • Signed Letter from Organization. • Example: Student Government, Class President, or Team Captain. 	2.5 points for each activity
Sports Activities (Max 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application. • Signed Letter from Organization. • Example: Football, Soccer, or Swimming. 	One point for each activity

Disclaimer: Members of the VaBHMA Scholarship Selection Committee, may not participate in the selection process if their children, grandchildren, or any relatives plan to apply for any VaBHMA scholarships. They must recuse themselves from the decision-making process and have their names removed from the application.