



## M. Stephen Johnson Memorial Scholarship



**The M. Stephen Johnson Memorial Scholarship** was established to honor the memory of SPC M. Stephen Johnson, who died by suicide in March of 2019. Stephen was just 22 years old. His death was in stark contrast to the way he lived his life.

Each year a \$2000.00 scholarship will be awarded to each of up to two promising military service member(s) (active or veteran) who serves or has served as a medic. The scholarship is to assist with costs directly related to a program or certification in a service-related field (healthcare, mental health, social work, public policy, etc.). Paramedic, flight school, nursing, specialization, bachelors, and advanced degrees are just a few examples of programs that would qualify.

To be considered for the Scholarship applicants must be currently enrolled or have been accepted to a program that is starting within the calendar year that the scholarship is awarded. Well-rounded military service members or veterans who demonstrate a significant initiative in leadership, serve as an inspiration, and believe in encouraging and shaping the lives of others in our community, are invited to apply.

Awarding of the M. Stephen Johnson Memorial Scholarship is contingent on several criteria including acceptance to, and enrollment in, a two- or four-year college, or certification course and a complete application. Additionally, applicants are required to submit an essay demonstrating resilience. Scholarship recipients are expected to use their resources wisely and uphold a high standard of conduct.

The M. Stephen Johnson Memorial Scholarship award is an outright grant. Although recipients are under no obligation to make repayment, it is hoped that once graduated and engaged in a productive career they will help honor the memory of Stephen by giving future students a similar financial opportunity.

The M. Stephen Johnson Memorial Scholarship was created in conjunction with Operation Shockwave, a non-profit dedicated to veteran suicide prevention through complementary and integrative healing modalities. Suicide is a hard topic to openly discuss; mental health often carries the stigma of people being broken. We want to change this. We need to open up dialogues amongst family, friends and the community in order to save lives. This scholarship starts to build this bridge on a community level and actively supports individuals on a similar path.



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### **How to Apply:**

We are using an offline application process. Applications can be printed out, completed, and then scanned. ALL required attachments must be submitted at the same time your application is submitted. DO NOT send materials separately. Only those applications submitted to the [scholarships@operationshockwave.org](mailto:scholarships@operationshockwave.org) email address will be given consideration.

Your complete application, including all attachments, can be submitted electronically via email to [scholarships@operationshockwave.org](mailto:scholarships@operationshockwave.org). Please include the applicant's last name and the name of the scholarship in the subject line of your email. Deadline for filing is March 5<sup>th</sup>. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Your application will be reviewed by members of the Scholarship Committee. Selection will be based on 1) meeting the application requirements/criteria and 2) a writing rating. The four (4) short answer questions will each be worth 10 points and the essay worth 60 points. Minimum score in short answer is 35 and minimum score in the essay is 50 to be eligible to receive the award. Bonus question is not rated.

Finalists may be contacted for an interview. Winners must receive their award at the award ceremony (at their own expense) which takes place on March 15<sup>th</sup> every year in Phoenix, AZ. Students will be notified by email of any scholarship award or denial on or before March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Application Requirements:**

- Proof of military service (DD 214, military ID, or Letter of Service)
- Proof of Enrollment in Classes
- Completed application
- Short Answers
- An essay must accompany your application. It must be typed, double spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font and should be a minimum of 300 words and no more than two pages long.

### **Remember! Keep a copy of your application for your records.**

Questions? Email [scholarships@operationshockwave.org](mailto:scholarships@operationshockwave.org).  
Email your completed application and all scanned attachments to [scholarships@operationshockwave.org](mailto:scholarships@operationshockwave.org) by March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.



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# Cover Sheet

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Name of Applicant

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Email of Applicant

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Date

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# of pages (including cover sheet)

For Internal Use Only

Score \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_



## M. Stephen Johnson Memorial Scholarship



### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Applicant Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

SSN \_\_\_\_\_

### ACADEMIC & SERVICE INFORMATION

School \_\_\_\_\_

Program of Study \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Enrolled \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of School Enrollment Attached

Active Service Member  Veteran

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

MOS \_\_\_\_\_

ETS date (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**☞ I certify that the statements herein are true to the best of my knowledge and grant my permission for the information contained herein to be shared with the scholarship selection committee and scholarly donor(s)**

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_



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Please label, number and attach answers on a separate sheet of paper.

### Short Answer:

1. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
2. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
3. Students like Stephen work to improve their communities in different ways, from tackling the world's biggest challenges to being a good friend. Describe one way in which you have contributed to your community, whether in your family, the classroom, your neighborhood, etc.
4. The mission of Operation Shockwave is to prevent veteran suicide through integrative and complementary healing modalities. How does your choice of study relate to your own personal mission?

### Bonus:

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

### Essay Question:

What life lessons has adversity taught you?

Be sure to include:

- your challenges or obstacles
- why overcoming the challenge/obstacle was important
- the impact this had on your life and
- the outcome