



# 2026 MASTER SERGEANT JIMMIE QUINTERO SCHOLARSHIP

Application – Class of 2026  
Administered by: Hats Off For Veterans (HOFV)  
Application Period: April 1 – April 30, 2026  
Award Amount: \$500 (Four awards available)  
Eligibility: Texas High School Seniors Enlisting Prior to Graduation

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## SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Texas County: \_\_\_\_\_  
High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cumulative GPA (4.0 scale): \_\_\_\_\_ (Upload an unofficial transcript required)

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## SECTION 2: MILITARY ENLISTMENT INFORMATION

(Incomplete or unverifiable enlistment information will result in disqualification)

Branch of Service You Have Enlisted In (select one):

U.S. Army |  U.S. Navy |  U.S. Air Force |  U.S. Marine Corps |  U.S. Coast Guard |  
 U.S. Space Force |  OTHER

Recruiter Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiting Station (City): \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed MEPS?  Yes  No (Application will not be reviewed without MEPS completion)

Date MEPS Was Completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Planned Ship Date (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

### Required Uploads:

- Proof of Enlistment Contract
- MEPS Completion Documentation



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**SECTION 3: ESSAY – SERVICE COMMITMENT** (Essay must be attached with this application.)  
(500 words or more – REQUIRED)

**Prompt:** Master Sergeant Jimmie Quintero dedicated his life to service, discipline, leadership, and loyalty to his country and fellow service members.

Please compose a well-structured and reflective essay addressing all of the following questions. Submit your essay using MS Word or any application that permits attachment of documents with your application. ***Ensure your essay is formatted in 12-point font with 1.5-line spacing.***

- Why did you choose military service over other post-graduation paths?
- What personal experiences, challenges, or influences shaped this decision?
- What do you believe you will sacrifice by serving, and why does that sacrifice make it worth it?
- How do you define leadership, and how do you plan to live that definition while in uniform?

➔ Essays that are vague, generic, or clearly **AI-generated** will be disqualified.

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**SECTION 4: ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING & CHARACTER**  
(Short Answer 100-150 words– All Required)

1. Describe a time you were placed in a difficult situation that tested your integrity. What decision did you make and why?

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2. Military service often requires following orders you may not personally agree with. How do you balance obedience with moral responsibility?

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## SECTION 5: RESILIENCE & DISCIPLINE

(Short Answer 100-150 words– All Required)

1. Describe the hardest challenge you have faced in your life so far. How did it prepare you for military service?

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2. What habits, routines, or disciplines do you currently practice that will help you succeed in basic training and beyond?

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## SECTION 6: COMMUNITY & SERVICE

List your community service, leadership roles, or work experience over the past four years. Include organization name, role, dates, and total time in this role. Use N/A if there is nothing to list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Which experience best demonstrates your commitment to serving others? Why? (150–175 words)

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## SECTION 7: LETTERS OF VERIFICATION & RECOMMENDATION

(All Required)

Upload the following:

- Letter from Your Military Recruiter
- Must verify enlistment, MEPS completion, and good standing
- One Academic Recommendation
- Teacher, counselor, or administrator
- One Character Reference
- Coach, employer, faith leader, veteran mentor, or community leader

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## SECTION 8: FINAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- I understand this scholarship is competitive and not guaranteed
- I understand awards will be announced May 14, 2026.
- I understand that failure to ship or honor enlistment commitments may require repayment of the scholarship.

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## SECTION 9: CERTIFICATION & HONOR STATEMENT

Read carefully before signing.

I certify that all information submitted in this application is true and accurate. I understand that any false information or misrepresentation will result in immediate disqualification. I acknowledge that this scholarship honors the legacy of Master Sergeant Jimmie Quintero and represents a commitment to service, integrity, and leadership.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SCORING CRITERIA

Verified Enlistment & MEPS Completion – Mandatory

Essay Depth & Authenticity – 40%

Character & Ethical Reasoning – 25%

Leadership & Service – 20%

Academic & Personal Discipline – 15%

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