



Veterans Service Program Newsletter



May 2010



New Scholarship for the Children of Fallen Service Members Benefit Honors Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry

WASHINGTON (April 30, 2010) - The children of military personnel who died in the line of duty since Sept. 11, 2001 can apply for an educational scholarship similar to the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. Benefits are retroactive to Aug. 1, 2009.

The scholarship, which is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, are named after Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry, 28, a Texas native who died in Iraq in 2006 while disarming an explosive. He was survived by three young children.

"The Fry scholarship represents this nation's solemn commitment to care for children whose mothers and fathers paid the ultimate price for our country," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

VA begins accepting applications for the Fry scholarship on May 1, 2010. For more information or assistance applying, call toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551), or visit the VA GI Bill Website at www.gibill.va.gov.

VA estimates nearly 1,500 children will receive benefits under the Fry scholarship program in 2010. Recipients generally have 15 years to use their benefits, beginning on their 18th birthdays. Eligible children attending institutions of higher learning may receive payments to cover their tuition and fees up to the highest amounts charged to public, in-state students at undergraduate institutions in each state. A monthly housing allowance and stipend for books and supplies are also paid under this program.

VA will begin paying benefits under the Fry scholarships on Aug. 1, 2010. Eligible participants may receive benefits retroactively to August 1, 2009, the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect. Eligible children may be married. Recipients are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100 percent level. When dependents also serve in the military, the reserves or are Veterans in their own right, eligible for education benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill for Active Duty, the Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserves or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), then they would relinquish their eligibility under those programs to receive benefits under a Fry scholarship.

National Moment of Remembrance May 31, 2010 at 3p.m. local time



Memorial Day, it is time to pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the profound contribution they have made to secure our Nation's freedom, we should honor them especially on Memorial Day. All Americans should come together to recognize how fortunate we are to live in freedom and to observe a universal "National Moment of Remembrance" on each Memorial Day. This memorial observance represents a simple and unifying way to commemorate our history and honor the struggle to protect our freedoms.

The National Moment of Remembrance is to occur at 3 p.m. on each Memorial Day. Encouraging Americans everywhere, to pause for one minute at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day, to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to provide freedom for all.



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES HELD AT MISSOURI STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES May 31st, 2010

- 9:00 a.m. MO State Veterans Cemetery- Jacksonville
1479 County Road 1675 Jacksonville, MO
- 1:00 p.m. MO State Veterans Cemetery – Bloomfield
17357 Stars and Stripes Way Bloomfield, MO
- 1:00 p.m. MO State Veterans Cemetery - Higginsville
20109 Business Hwy 13 Higginsville, MO
- 1:00 p.m. MO State Veterans Cemetery – Springfield
5201 S. Southwood Road Springfield, MO

If you have news or events you would like to post, please submit the information to:

Cindy Stivers, VSO at Cindy.Stivers@mvc.dps.mo.gov or

Karla Alsberge, OSA at Karla.Alsberge@mvc.dps.mo.gov for submission

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VA Marks 85 Years of “Discovery, Innovation and Advancement”

Researchers Have Brought Hope to Generations

WASHINGTON – Eighty-five years of enriching the lives of Veterans and all Americans through top-notch medical research will be spotlighted April 26-30 when the Department of Veterans Affairs celebrates National VA Research Week. On April 22, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs W. Scott Gould was joined by disability advocate Lee Woodruff and country music star – and Iraq and Afghanistan vet – Stephen Cochran at VA’s Central Office in Washington to kick off the official 85th birthday party for the Department’s research program.

“The rich history of accomplishment by VA researchers has improved Veterans’ lives and advanced the practice of medicine throughout the country,” said Gould. “The innovative VA researchers who turn so many hopes into realities are truly national treasures.”

VA, which has the largest integrated health care system in the country, also has one of the largest medical research programs. This year, nearly 3,400 researchers will work on more than 2,300 projects, funded by nearly \$1.9 billion. VA’s research program was recently in the news when the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* published the results April 16 of a study by VA’s Albert Lo of Providence, R.I., to use robotics to improve the recovery of stroke victims with impaired use of their arms and hands. Gould noted the most recent space shuttle flight on April 5 carried to the international space station a VA research project to study the impact of aging on the human immune system. The study is overseen by Dr. Millie Hughes-Fulford, a VA researcher in San Francisco and a former scientist-astronaut who flew on the space shuttle in 1991.

“From the development of effective therapies for tuberculosis and implantable cardiac pacemakers, to the first successful liver transplant and the nicotine patch, VA’s trail-blazing research accomplishments are a source of great pride to our Department and the nation,” Gould added.

In 1977, VA researcher Rosalind Yalow was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for developing techniques that measure substances in the blood with great accuracy. Her work brought about “a revolution in

biological and medical research,” according to the Nobel Committee.

Eighteen years before, in 1959, Dr. William Oldendorf, a VA researcher in Los Angeles, built a unique device to measure blood flow in the brain with only \$3,000. He went on to create something even more remarkable -- a prototype for the first computerized tomography (CT) scanner.

“Examples of this dedication and advancement are not limited to history,” said Gould. “Today’s committed VA researchers are focusing on traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, post-deployment health, womens health and a host of other issues key to the well-being of our Veterans.”

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Central Office/Veterans Services Program/Cemeteries Program.

Tony Pridgeon, Veterans Service Officer for the Southeast Region was selected as the May 2010 Missouri Veterans Commission Central Office/Veterans Services Program/Cemeteries Employee of the Month.

Tony was selected for this award because of the impact he has on his community and the St. James Veterans Home. His dedication and willingness to learn is evident. He has gone far and beyond MVC’s expectations of a new Veterans Service Officer with his dedication and efforts. His compassionate care and can-do attitude is a valuable asset to MVC.

Congratulations, Tony!



Birthdays

Marquis Schultz 5/2
Charles Baxter 5/20

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