

Leatherneck Line

Edited by Mary D. Karcher

Scholarships Available to Military Dependents

Here are a few of the organizations that offer scholarships to military spouses and dependent children. Some of them accept donations to support their program, so even if you are not in need of a scholarship, you can access their Web site and offer a donation. For a list of organizations offering scholarships, visit www.americasupportsyou.mil/AmericaSupportsYou/scholar_mil_children.html.

• ThanksUSA Offers Scholarships In Appreciation for Service

ThanksUSA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities through need-based competitive scholarships to the children and spouses of active-duty military personnel. The program began in 2005 when two Virginia schoolgirls, Rachel and Kelsi Okun, wanted to mobilize Americans to thank active-duty troops for defending their freedoms.

Applicants to the ThanksUSA scholarship program must be either dependent children, age 24 or under, of active-duty U.S. military personnel or spouses of active-duty U.S. military personnel. They must be high school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll, or students already enrolled, in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational technical school.

Recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, academic record, leadership and participation in school and community activities. Preference is given to children or spouses of military personnel killed or injured during active duty.

The organization accepts scholarship applications from April 1 to May 15, 2009. For more information, access www.thanksusa.org/main/scholarships.html. Applicants may register an e-mail address for notification about the 2009 program.

ThanksUSA Web site

• MCSF: Honoring Marines By Educating Their Children™

For nearly 50 years, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-

profit organization, has helped accomplish what many Marines cannot—enabling their children to pursue dreams of a college education. Since 1962, the foundation has provided more than \$34 million in academic needs-based scholarships to outstanding sons and daughters of Marines.

Children of active-duty or former Marines are eligible to apply for scholarships. A parent must have served honorably for more than 90 days in the United States

acter demonstrated) also is considered.

Applicants are expected to have a satisfactory academic record and a record of having participated in civic and/or school activities. All applicants must use an official application form available from the foundation office upon request, or downloaded from the foundation's Web site at www.mcsf.org.

Scholarships are renewable annually for up to four years for qualified applicants. For more details, call (800) 292-7777, or visit the Web site www.mcsf.org.
MCSF Web site

• Commissaries Offer Scholarship Program

The Defense Commissary Agency offers the Scholarships for Military Children Program in recognition of the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community.

A minimum of one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded for each commissary location. More than one scholarship per commissary may be available based on response and funding. The scholarship provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other related expenses.

Dependent unmarried children under age 23 of active-duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military personnel, survivors of military personnel who died while on active duty, or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship. Applicants and their sponsors must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database, and they must have a current dependent military ID card.

Additional information and applications are available at commissaries or from the Web site www.militaryscholar.org. Application packets must include a completed two-page application, transcript and a short, typed essay answering the question "What would you place in a time capsule to help people opening the capsule in the next century understand military life today?" All applications must be received at a commissary by Feb. 18, 2009.

Scholarships for Military Children Web site



COURTESY OF THANKSUSA

Jennie Laurent, pictured with her husband, Sgt Marc Laurent, is the recipient of a \$3,000 Jenzabar Foundation/ThanksUSA scholarship, which she will apply to her nursing studies at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston.

Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve. Special consideration is given to applicants whose parent has been killed or wounded in action.

The applicant must be a senior in high school, a high school graduate, or enrolled for undergraduate studies in an accredited college or vocational school. Applicants must demonstrate financial need. The general background of the applicant (including hardships the applicant has had to overcome and the qualities of char-

• **Scholarships for Military Spouses**

The National Military Family Association's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of Uniformed Services members (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees, and survivors) to obtain professional certification or to attend post-secondary or graduate school.

Scholarships range in amount from \$500 to \$1,000, and the number awarded each year varies depending on funding. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees and school room and board. Scholarship selection is based on the completion of survey questions that will help NMFA advocate for education changes on your behalf, short answer questions and an essay question.

For more information, visit www.nmfa.org, and under "NMFA Programs," click on "Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program," or call (800) 260-0218.

NMFA Web site

Vets, Troops Not in Uniform Now May Salute Flag

A change to federal law allows U.S. veterans and active-duty military personnel not in uniform to render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem and when the national flag is passing.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," Vet-

erans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake said. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The provision builds on a change that went into effect in 2007. That change authorized veterans and active-duty military personnel not in uniform to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag.

Traditionally, veterans' service organizations rendered the hand salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's headgear. Otherwise, as with all other Americans, the etiquette is to place the right hand over the heart. Now, rendering the hand salute is an option, but it is not required. Placing the hand over the heart remains an appropriate sign of respect and honor.

The most recent change was part of the 2009 Defense Authorization Act, which President George W. Bush signed Oct. 14, 2008.

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran, sponsored both pieces of legislation. "The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Inhofe said in a written statement. "Veterans and servicemembers continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. The U.S. Code is now consistent for veterans and all servicemembers in regards to the symbolic gesture of the military salute."

American Forces Press Service



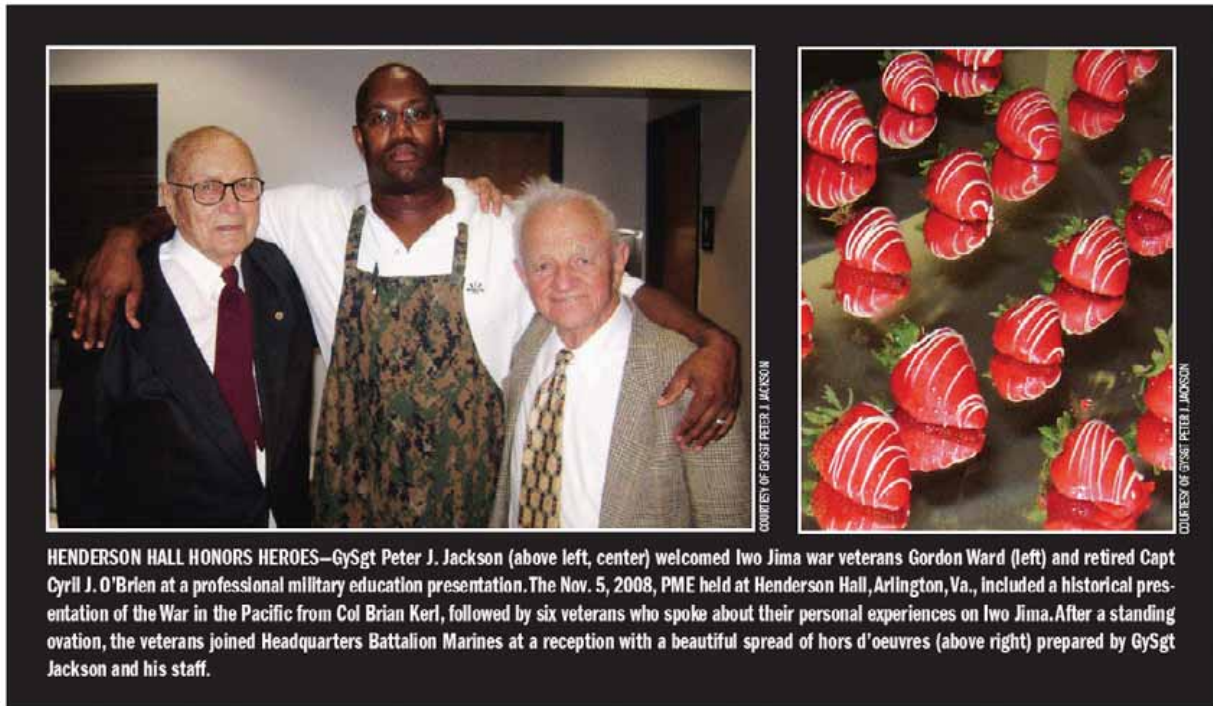
Navy-Marine Corps Ball Raises Funds For Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The 2009 Navy-Marine Corps Ball will be held Saturday, March 28, at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. This ball has been held almost every year since 1904 and is the major fund-raising event in support of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

Funds raised by the ball are used by the society to provide financial, educational and other assistance to active-duty and retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel and eligible family members and survivors, when in need.

Please join in supporting this worthy cause by attending the ball and/or making a donation. To learn more about the programs the society provides, visit www.nmcrs.org. For tickets or more information on the ball, call (202) 889-8112/3, e-mail navmcball@aol.com, or visit the Web site www.navymcball.org.

Juanita Land
Navy-Marine Corps Ball Committee



HENDERSON HALL HONORS HEROES—GySgt Peter J. Jackson (above left, center) welcomed Iwo Jima war veterans Gordon Ward (left) and retired Capt Cyril J. O'Brien at a professional military education presentation. The Nov. 5, 2008, PME held at Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va., included a historical presentation of the War in the Pacific from Col Brian Kerl, followed by six veterans who spoke about their personal experiences on Iwo Jima. After a standing ovation, the veterans joined Headquarters Battalion Marines at a reception with a beautiful spread of hors d'oeuvres (above right) prepared by GySgt Jackson and his staff.