



**Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.
P.O. Box 3218
Ventura, CA 93006-3218**

Dear Counselor/Instructor,

Please find enclosed, for your students use, the S/SGT James Ray Scholarship Application packet, sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County (V.V.V.C.). Each year, the V.V.V.C. seeks to assist students in furthering their education through our scholarship program. We recognize that an education is the most valuable tool an individual can possess.

S/SGT James Michael Ray was declared a Prisoner of War on March 18, 1968 in South Vietnam while serving in the United States Army. Unfortunately, his whereabouts are still unknown. In the spirit of keeping his memory alive, we have named our scholarship in his honor. The amount to be awarded is \$500 each for a total of 2 awards. Additional copies of this application and further information can be obtained on our website at www.vvvc.org under the projects section.

We have included in this packet a brief biography of S/SGT James M. Ray, including his Silver Star Citation. You are welcomed to copy and disseminate as you feel appropriate. **Deadline for submission of complete applications/packets is October 1, 2013. The address is:**

**Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.
ATTN: Scholarship Chairman
1668 Euclid Ave
Camarillo, CA 93010**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (preferred) or at the number below. Thank you.

Respectfully,

David Ha
Scholarship Chairman
V.V.V.C.
(805) 377-1017
Email: kawikah@aol.com

James M. Ray

Rank, Service

Staff Sergeant E-6, U.S. Army

Veteran of:

U.S. Army 1967-1969

Cold War 1967-1969

Vietnam War 1968-1969 (POW, Died in Captivity)

Tribute:

Jim Ray was born on November 10, 1949, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and was trained in military intelligence. Private Ray went to Vietnam in 1968 and was captured by the Viet Cong near Di Linh, Lam Dong Province, South Vietnam, on March 18, 1968. He was with a unit of the South Vietnamese Army on a road clearing mission when they came under attack. Ray was wounded by an explosion but managed to return fire on the enemy before he was taken captive. Sgt Ray managed an escape attempt from his captors in July 1969, but he was quickly recaptured. Sgt James Ray died in captivity on November 30, 1969. His remains have never been returned to the United States.

His Silver Star Citation reads:

Staff Sergeant James M. Ray is awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against an armed enemy while serving as a Prisoner of War in South Vietnam during the period July 1969. Sergeant Ray distinguished himself by attempting to escape from an enemy prison camp. He recognized that odds for success were slight and if he was recaptured he would receive severe torture, long periods of solitary confinement, and possible death by execution. Although he was recaptured, he maintained strong conviction in the Code of Conduct. In June 1969, Sergeant Ray was punished for violation of camp regulations by being placed in double chains, one on each ankle. Then in July 1969 while en route to the latrine, he attempted to escape by assaulting a guard. At that time, he had a chain locked to each ankle and was carrying the excess chain in each hand. As he approached the guard sitting on a stool in the guard hooch, he suddenly stopped, dropped the chains, and hit the guard in the face with his fist, knocking him from the stool to the ground. He then reached and grabbed the guard's rifle and started to turn when he slipped and fell. As Sergeant Ray fell to the ground, the additional guard who unlocked him jumped on him, wrapping the chain around his neck and began beating him with his fist. The guard who had been knocked to the ground got up and started to kick and beat on Sergeant Ray. Then both guards wrapped Sergeant Ray in the chains and locked them and then threw him into his bunker. He was left overnight wrapped in the chains and the next day he was again secured to his bunker with two chains, one attached to each ankle.



He was not allowed outside his bunker, and his rations were cut to one meal a day. Shortly after this, he was removed from the camp and was never seen again. This extreme gallantry exhibited by Sergeant Ray was amply illustrated by the fact that so few prisoners ever tried to escape, primarily due to the rigid security measures imposed by the camp. This courageous escape attempt served more than to merely get him out of the prison camp. More guards were required, and prisoner morale soared. This act of gallantry, with recognition of the grave risk to his own life, demonstrated a great devotion to duty and his country, which reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



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In honor of

S/SGT James M. Ray

What is it?

The S/SGT James M. Ray Scholarship is a \$500.00 essay scholarship named in honor of S/SGT James M. Ray, one of America's Prisoner of War (POW) of the Vietnam War. This scholarship is designed to give students an opportunity to voice their feelings on various issues concerning Veterans and the Veteran Community. Questions are selected by the Scholarship Committee.

Who is eligible?

Applicants must be:

1). A student enrolled in the 12th grade and properly enrolled in a public, private, parochial high school, or a home school studies program in the United States.

Or

2). Enrolled in at least 6 units at an accredited college in the United States.

How are essays judged?

All eligible essays will be judged on their interpretation of the assigned question. The written essay must be the applicant's original work and a product of the applicant's own thinking. Essays are to be printed, doubled spaced 10 pitch Arial font at least 250 words long. Quotations and references are highly encouraged. Proper footnotes and notations are to be properly identified and referenced. Proper grammar and correct spelling is important. Ensure that your thoughts flow in an orderly manner that when read, the reader can draw the same conclusion based on your assessment. Be sure, when required, support you ideas with concise references and quotations.

There are a total of 50 points, which can be awarded for each essay. Points will be awarded in the following manner:

Content/References	1 to 20 points
Originality	1 to 20 points
Mechanics/Neatness	1 to 10 points

How do I apply?

1. Type or neatly print the information outlined in the application. You may reproduce the application if necessary; however the format and content of the application may not be altered in any way.
2. Application must be signed and dated by applicant. If applicant is under the age of 18, parent, step-parent or guardian must sign and date the application also.

3. Have your high school counselor, college department chair or college instructor fill out the Scholastic Reference Form and return it to you. (You must include this form when submitting the application.)
4. Return completed application packet (Awards Application, Scholarship Essay and Reference Form) by **October 1, 2013** to:

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County, Inc.
ATTN: Scholarship Chairman
1668 Euclid Ave
Camarillo, CA 93010

Winners will be notified either by mail or phone call by **October 14, 2013** and the scholarship will be presented at the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County's general membership meeting on **October 19, 2013**. Be prepared to read and present your essay.

Important Dates to Remember:

September 1, 2013

Scholarship announcement made to all schools and posted on the website: www.VVVC.org

October 1, 2013

All documents must be received before October 1, 2013. Only complete packets will be reviewed and eligible for consideration. Allow time for mailing.

October 14, 2013

Winners will be notified. Ensure that all contact information is accurate and complete.

October 19, 2013

Presentation of awards at general membership meeting. NOTE: Please be prepared to read and present your essay.

**It is the responsibility of the applicant to
prior to the above deadlines.**



complete and submit all requirements

S/SGT JAMES M. RAY SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS APPLICATION

The purpose of this application is to bring together all essential information about you. This information will be used only in regard to scholarship screening. Please fill in this form accurately and completely; failure to do so will be considered grounds for disqualification. Be assured that all the information received by the Scholarship Committee will be held in complete confidence. **Return this Awards Application and the Reference Form by October 1, 2013 to:**

Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County
Attn: Scholarship Chairman
1668 Euclid Ave
Camarillo, CA 93010

NAME: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ CURRENT GRADE IN SCHOOL _____

Date of High School graduation _____

Name of Post-Secondary School/College you are attending (if applicable) _____

List the Post-Secondary Schools/Colleges to which you have made formal application:

Fill in the following school and/or community activities information that is applicable to you.

School/Community Honors and Awards Received (based solely on merit, not financial need).

School/Community Service:

School/Community Activities:

Offices held in School/Community Organizations:

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature _____

(If applicant is under 18 years of age)



Date: _____

S/SGT JAMES M. RAY SCHOLARSHIP
ESSAY TOPICS

Please write an essay in response to **one** of the questions below. The essay must be at least 250 words. Please list any references used.

- 1) In 1973, President Nixon abolished the military draft. Taking into consideration the events of September 11th and our nation's commitment to the war on terrorism:
 - a. Should they reinstate the draft? (Explain your position)
 - b. If the draft were to be reinstated, should it include both males and females? (Explain your position)

- 2) Compare the treatment and welcome home the Vietnam Veterans received versus the current Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans.
 - a. Cite specific references.
 - b. Explain why, if any, these differences exist.

- 3) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):
 - a. Explain what is it, and how is it caused.
 - b. Are the returning troops receiving proper care for PTSD? If not, what would you recommend?

- 4) What does freedom mean to you?
 - a. Please cite specific examples, and how it personally impacts your life.
 - b. Please contrast life in America if we were not free.



S/SGT JAMES M. RAY SCHOLARSHIP
REFERENCE FORM

(To be filled out by high school counselor, college department head or college instructor)

REGARDING: _____, Scholarship Applicant. BIRTHDATE: _____

Please furnish information which might be useful to the Scholarship Committee in considering the applicant for a scholarship. Please note, our scholarship awards are based solely on merit, and not financial need.

1. What is the nature and extent of your acquaintance with the applicant?

2. Give reasons you feel this applicant should be considered for this scholarship?

3. What is your impression of his/her school citizenship record?

4. Are you familiar with the applicant's involvement and participation in school activities and/or school service? _____

5. Are you familiar with any special school achievements or awards the applicant has received?

6. At this point in time, is applicant meeting graduation requirements? _____
7. Additional comments, if desired. _____

Signature: _____ Position/Title _____
Name of School: _____ Address: _____
Telephone No: _____ Date: _____

I hereby authorize the appropriate certificated school personnel to have access to the scholarship applicant's records, for the purposes of completing the Scholastic Reference Form.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____
Signature of Pupil (if 18 years or older) _____ Date: _____

Please return this form in a sealed envelope to the applicant.
Applicant will submit this completed Reference Form and the Scholarship Application (attached).