



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2014

Coral Springs, Florida, Youth Wins Top Scholarship for Service to Veterans

COLD SPRING, Ky. — Shannon Mathew of Coral Springs, Fla., has a goal of spending her future career assisting ill and injured veterans by helping rehabilitate them and improve their lives through physical therapy. For her volunteer efforts assisting veterans, she’s \$20,000 ahead on her life dream.

The 18-year-old recipient of DAV’s top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship, hopes to use the award to major in a physical therapy program at either the University of Florida or Florida State University. The scholarship will be presented at DAV’s 93rd National Convention Aug. 9 at Bally’s Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Mathew has volunteered at the Miami Department of Veterans Affairs medical center for four years and accumulated 585 hours assisting veterans. “Shannon’s compassion and care for veterans knows no limits,” said DAV Acting National Director of Voluntary Services John Kleindienst. “She’s already helped many veterans to become healthy and strong again, and DAV wishes her the very best in her personal goal of continuing to rehabilitate America’s veterans through physical therapy.”

“Shannon is an incredible young lady,” said DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess. “She shows a very high level of respect for the veterans she’s assisting at her local VA medical center and has even introduced additional volunteers into the program.”

Other scholarship winners include:

Richard Struck of Palo Alto, Calif.	\$15,000
Leah J. Lee of Brookfield, Wisc.	\$10,000
Joseph S. Janikowski of Ocean Springs, Miss.	\$ 7,500
Lilit Kazazian of Waterford, Mich.	\$ 7,500
Brendan O’Sullivan of Downers Grove, Ill.	\$ 5,000
Tymber Long of Lincoln, Neb.	\$ 5,000
Natalia Morales of Bronx, N.Y.	\$ 5,000

About DAV

DAV empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It is dedicated to a single purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served. DAV does this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America’s injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. DAV, a non-profit organization with 1.2 million members, was founded in 1920 and chartered by the U. S. Congress in 1932. Learn more at www.dav.org.