

NEWS RELEASE

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YOUNG VOLUNTEERS AWARDED DAV SCHOLARSHIPS

NEW ORLEANS—The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has selected eight outstanding young volunteers to receive cash awards under the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program. The first place scholarship of \$20,000 was awarded to Jack O’Sullivan of Downers Grove, Ill., who contributed more than 800 hours of service at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Edward Hines, Jr., VA medical center, outside of Chicago.

The second place scholarship of \$15,000 went to Eliana Hernandez who volunteered at the Miami, Fla. VA medical center. The third place award of \$10,000 went to Michaela Wahl who provided service at the Wichita, Kan., VA medical center. Britney Heinbaugh, who volunteered at the Louisville, Ky., VA medical center and Aaron Clark of the Washington, D.C., VA medical center each received \$7,500 scholarships. Jason Schultz, who provided service at the Milwaukee, Wisc., VA medical center, and Angel Vargas of the Ft. Myers, Fla., VA medical center each received \$5,000 scholarships.

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program honors outstanding young volunteers who are active participants in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) programs. The scholarships are awarded to deserving young men and women who have donated their time and compassion to sick and disabled veterans in their communities.

“The young men and women who received this year’s scholarships exhibit outstanding compassion and a devotion to serve veterans as volunteers at VA medical centers and facilities,” said National Commander Wallace E. Tyson. “The quality of their character and the reverence in which they view veterans make them excellent volunteers. They give their best to help our veterans.”

O’Sullivan, an avid student of veterans, said he recognizes that veterans have insight and knowledge that cannot be gained through reading history books. “I have been exposed to some remarkable people through volunteering,” he said. “The veteran patients I have encountered are a living history lesson. Their stories are very inspirational.”

“Only 19, Jack is an exemplary volunteer,” said Commander Tyson. “He has that rare combination of interest and empathy that comforts elderly patients in the cardiology department who need someone to listen to them.”

A volunteer for more than five years, O’Sullivan has earned the respect of medical center officials and will receive the top Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship award at the DAV National Convention in New Orleans, La.

“O’Sullivan hopes to use the \$20,000 scholarship to attend St. Louis University to study medicine,” said Tyson. “His long-term goal is to become a cardiologist or orthopedic surgeon working with veterans.”

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization’s Web site www.dav.org.