

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

"To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

That last line from The American Legion's Preamble to the Constitution underscores much of what our organization represents in communities all across this great nation.

We can see the benefits of mutual helpfulness in the eyes of those who receive assistance from The American Legion. A resident at a veterans home attended to by a younger VA Volunteer Services Legionnaire. A victim of a natural disaster receives immediate financial assistance via the Legion's National Emergency Fund. And a young man learns lifelong leadership skills at American Legion Boys State.

The list goes on and on. But last week at Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, the National Executive Committee approved a very important change to the Legacy Scholarship Fund that will expand the roster of those receiving assistance. In simple terms, **the Legion is increasing the pool of scholarship applicants** to include children of post 9/11 veterans with disability ratings of 50 percent or higher.

Make no mistake: the children of post 9/11 veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice will remain the top priority for Legacy Scholarship aid. But by expanding the eligibility requirements, the Legion will continue to provide for the children of the men and women who face the harsh realities of war wounds every day of their lives.

While the changes are immediate, in practical terms, they will not take place until the 2017 scholarship year. The 2016 Legacy Scholarship winners were selected at the recent Spring Meetings. Those who qualify under the new rules have until the application

deadline of April 20, 2017, to apply.

The expansion of this program is occurring, thanks to its success and to the dedication of our American Legion Riders. Throughout the years of the Legacy Run, the Riders have shown a tremendous commitment to aiding students in need.

Among those students who received assistance from the Legion's Legacy Scholarships is Eva Marie Witt of Ohio. "The scholarship pays honor and tribute to my father, and I am just so thankful that I've been able to pay for my college and not have that extra worry and stress on top of everything I'm already dealing with."

Thanks to the Riders, donors and everyone else who contributes to this rewarding program, there will be more deserving students receiving scholarships in the future.

Duty. Honor. Country.

