



Vietnam Veterans of America Texas State Council Scholarship Announcement

Dear Texas VVA Members:

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Texas State Council, wishes to award the Alberto Rodriguez, Robert Spencer and Don Carlos Kennedy Memorial Scholarship to a Vietnam Veteran, current spouse, his/her child or grandchild.

Applications will be given to the Texas VVA Chapters at the TSC meeting in October, 2019 and be sent via email and mailed to chapters without an email address in January 2020 as an additional reminder. If the applicant's essay is sent by email or mail to any chapters or VVA TSC members before the TSC meeting in April 2020 then the application is disqualified. All essays will be given to several professionals (including a college professor). They will select the top three essays and VVA Texas Chapters at the TSC meeting in April 2020 and will select 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The integrity of the essay is done by removing the applicant's name from each qualified essay. Please do not pass out the essays before the meeting and do not disclose the name of the applicant. This scholarship belongs to the Texas Vietnam Veterans of America and each chapter has a vote. The winner's essays are judged by **content, grammar, appearance, originality, and punctuation**. DO NOT CHANGE THE NAME OF THE ESSAY IT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED EVEN IF ONE WORD IS LEFT OUT OR OTHER WORDS INCLUDED.

The completed application must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2020. Please send all completed forms to:

VVA Texas State Council
Scholarship Committee
100 Elmwood
Fritch, Texas 79036

If you have any questions, please contact me at home 817-691-5577 or (Percilla Newberry) at home 806-857-0409.

Sincerely,
Jim W. Boyd, Scholarship Chair
jimwboyd@swbell.net
Percilla Newberry, Scholarship Co-Chair
Percilla121@aol.com

**ALBERTO RODRIQUEZ
ROBERT SPENCER
And
DON CARLOS KENNEDY
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Scholarship Criteria

What is it?

Vietnam Veterans of America, Texas State Council, offers a scholarship for veterans of the Vietnam War, their children, step-children, grandchildren, current spouses and widows who have not remarried who reside in the State of Texas and attend a fully accredited Texas College or University*, enrolled in 12 credit hours or more or will be graduating seniors in high school. (*Texarkana VVA Chapter 278 will have an exception due to the location).

Who was Alberto Rodriquez?

He was a member of VVA 457. He helped to start the VVA organization in San Antonio. He also helped establish the Vet Centers in San Antonio, Kerrville and San Angelo. He signed on for a two-year stint in 1967, reaching the rank of Specialist 4. He was a senior scout observer with the Reconnaissance Platoon of Company E, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Alberto was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with the Silver Star, awarded at the direction of the President in lieu of five Bronze Stars. He also served on the West Texas POW/MIA commission and directed some campaign seeking medical benefits for Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange. After fighting the Viet Cong., 42 year old Alberto Rodriquez lost his final battle to cancer on November 4, 1989.

Who was Robert Dale Spencer?

Robert was a Sergeant with the rank of E-5. He was in D Co, 1st Bn, 22nd Infantry, 4th Inf. Division, USARV. Robert was born on February 23, 1948 and was killed on August 3, 1970 in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam. His home town was Texas City, Texas. He was 22 years of age at the time of his death. Prior to serving his country he was an artist.

Who is Don Carlos Kennedy

He was a member of VVA Chapter 1000. He was a founding member of the VVAFT, Inc. Former Vietnam Veteran Texas State Council Vice-President June 2006 to April 2014. Also, former VVA Texas State Council President and Secretary. He was a former Vice-President of Chapter 292 in Beaumont, Texas. Until his death Don was the President of the VVAFT, Inc., Treasurer of Chapter 1000 and he was Chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Texas State Council Scholarship and also served on the Financial Committee.

He served as a Sgt. in the United States Air Force 1967-1971. His tour of duty in Vietnam Feb. 1969 – August 1969. Don proudly served in the United States Air Force until he was medically discharged due to his tour in Vietnam in 1971. He later worked as a teacher, having earned a Masters in Agricultural Science.

Donnie had a love for education and for his students. His biggest delight and passion were researching topics for the next TSC VVA scholarship. A week before Donnie passed away, he again had some very interesting topics. Donnie passed away on August 27th, 2016.

How the Scholarship may be used?

This scholarship money **must** be applied toward tuition, books and other fees.

How do I apply?

- ◆ Fill out the application
- ◆ Attach all of the requested support documents
- ◆ Write the essay
- ◆ Completed entries must be postmarked on or before **March 1, 2020**

What About the Essay?

The topic – **What does this mean to the Vietnam Veterans: NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER?**

1. Minimum of 1,500 words
2. Judged on Content, Appearance, Grammar, Originality and Punctuation.



**TEXAS STATE COUNCIL
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
DON CARLOS KENNEDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION - 2020

Date: _____

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: _____
(Street or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Phone Number: Home _____ Work _____

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Are you a Vietnam Veteran or Vietnam Era Veteran? _____

If yes, provide service number _____

Dates of Service _____

Type or Discharge _____

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR DD-214

Are you the child, grandchild or the current spouse or widow of a Vietnam Veteran or Vietnam Era Veteran? ____yes ____no

Please state relationship _____

If yes, attach:

- * **Veteran's DD-214**
- * **Valid copy of your birth certificate**
- * **Copy of Marriage License (for Spouse only)**
- * **Notarized statement from the veteran certifying you to be his or her child or spouse**
- * **Copy of death certificate (for Widow of Veteran)**

For college students only:

Have you completed at least 12 hours at an accredited college or university during the 12 months?

period prior to the date of this application? _____

If yes, attach:

Copy of transcript

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Are you currently enrolled and are attending on a full-time basis (12 semester hours) at accredited college or university? _____

If yes, attach:

Statements from your college or university register certifying that you are a student in good standing.

What is your major or field of study? _____

What is your overall GPA? _____

Attach a letter of your career ambition on completion of your degree

For High School Seniors:

Are you a high school Senior? _____

Required at least a 2.5 GPA? _____

Please include your:

- * Act or SAT Scores
- * Copy of High School transcript
- * Letter of acceptance from public, private or parochial college or university, or business or technical college.
- * Letter from high school principal, counselor or high school teacher

Attach a written essay of 1,500 words or more (anything less will disqualify your application) on the topic: **What does this mean to the Vietnam Veterans: NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER?** (*This is the complete title*)

Must be typed and doubled spaced.

Essays will be judged on content, appearance, grammar, originality and punctuation. Each essay will be checked for **PLAGIARISM**. This can disqualify you immediately.

Send completed application with required information and a hand-written letter explaining your need/desire for this scholarship.

VVA TEXAS STATE COUNCIL
Scholarship Committee Chairperson
Jim W. Boyd/Percilla Newberry
100 Elmwood
Fritch, Texas 79036

Deadline: MARCH 1, 2020