



## VENTURA COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

IAFF LOCAL 1364

*"Proud Professionals Serving the Citizens of Ventura County"*

3251 CORTE MALPASO • SUITES 501 C • CAMARILLO, CA 93012

### **SHANE KILGORE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

DC3, Robert Shane Kilgore, a member of the "Flying Squad", the Navy's elite firefighting party, served on the aircraft carrier, USS Midway from 1988 to 1990.

Born April 23, 1968, Shane grew up in Simi Valley. Energetic and athletic, Shane enjoyed surfing and snow skiing. In high school, Shane went out for football and track. He excelled in the triple jump. His quiet determination and easy smile endeared him to everyone who knew him.

Shane's goal was to become a firefighter. He graduated from Simi Valley High School in 1986, went to Moorpark College where he studied Fire Science and was on the track team. After two years, Shane was more determined than ever to join the Ventura County Fire Department. He joined the US Navy hoping to gain the experience which would stand him in good stead to realize his ambitions.



Shane graduated from the Naval A-School Damage Control Training School top of his class. He was sent to the Midway with special recommendations. Shane was assigned to the Flying Squad as Damage Control man. His hard work soon earned him a promotion to Petty Officer and Squad Leader.

On June 20, 1990, tragedy struck. One hundred and twenty five miles off the coast of Japan there was a fire on board the aircraft carrier. To relieve injured and exhausted firefighters, Shane fearlessly entered spaces in the immediate vicinity of the casualty. While performing this difficult and dangerous task, Shane was mortally wounded in a fiery explosion. He was buried with full military honors.

Representative Elton Gallegly made a speech in Shane's honor to the House of Representatives during which he said, "22 year old Robert Shane Kilgore wanted to be a firefighter more than anything. Naturally he knew firefighting is dangerous work, I'm sure my colleagues will agree that all too often we forget just how dangerous it is. Like most Americans, sometimes we take for granted the bravery and dedication our firefighters demonstrate every day. Although they usually won't admit it, they are heroes. Shane Kilgore was a hero too. It's not everyone who could open a smoke shrouded hatch...yet Shane and his colleagues didn't hesitate."

Shane was credited with helping save the lives of others in the accident and was posthumously awarded the Navy Commendation, one of the highest honors awarded in peace time.

Shane was a special person who touched a great many lives in his short 22 years. May his courage and spirit be an inspiration to us all. To commemorate his bravery and selflessness, Shane's family and the Ventura County Professional Firefighters Association have established the Shane Kilgore Memorial Scholarship Fund to benefit aspiring firefighters and firefighters' children.

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**SHANE KILGORE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

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**PURPOSE:**            The Shane Kilgore Scholarship Fund has been created through combined efforts of Shane's parents, Ron Marzola and Jackie McNeal, and the Ventura County Professional Firefighters' Association Charity Fund to honor Shane's memory and the selfless act of heroism he performed so that others may live.

**ELIGIBILITY:**        Any firefighter residing within Ventura County; Any children of firefighters that reside within Ventura County; Any Ventura County resident aspiring to become a firefighter.

The applicant must be a graduating senior or high school graduate. Applicants may attend any two or four year accredited college or university, vocational school or accredited fire academy in the United States and may select any course of study.

**AWARD:**            Two scholarships of \$2,500.00 each will be awarded on a competitive basis. The winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of two VCPFA members and one member of the general public. The committee's selection criteria will be based upon the scholarship application and other required attachments.

- One scholarship shall be awarded to a prospective firefighter.
- One scholarship shall be awarded to the candidate demonstrating overall academic excellence.

The evaluation covers scholastic aptitude based on transcripts, indications of good character and leadership based on teacher and / or administrator recommendations and extracurricular activities. A complete application is essential. It is suggested that the applying student have a 3.0 grade point average, but it is not absolutely necessary.

The committee reserves the right to divide the funds in case of any type of tie by the applicants.

All applicants will be notified of selection results by US Mail no later than the first week of April. Unfortunately due to the current pandemic, the scholarships will not be awarded via Ceremony. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Questions can be addressed via e-mail to: [shanekilgorescholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:shanekilgorescholarship@yahoo.com)

