



Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders  
Legacy Scholarships  
BISHOP NATHANIEL RUFFIN

APPLICATION PERIOD:  
January 6 through March 24, 2017

*All applications must be received by DVL no later than 5 pm, March 24, 2017.  
Late or incomplete applications will not be considered by the Committee.*

**Prior** to submitting your application, please read carefully all eligibility requirements for applying for the BISHOP NATHANIEL RUFFIN DVL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP at: [www.dvlproject.com](http://www.dvlproject.com), and the guidelines for writing the essay which are included with this application.

For this Legacy Scholarship, student applicants will demonstrate a continuing commitment to serving in educational institutions or not-for-profit organizations—secular or religious—whose mission and vision encompass helping others to reach their full potential as human beings.

Because it was important to Bishop Ruffin to take time to talk to and work with those who needed to hear an empathetic voice or who needed help with personal or professional challenges, those students who exemplify continuous service to marginalized people or groups, or those who have participated in efforts to promote tolerance and understanding among diverse peoples will be of special interest to the Selection Committee.

### **Essay**

As part of the application for the **Ruffin Scholarship**, you are required to write an original essay. (*Note: you are cautioned against simply “recycling” personal essays used for college applications or other scholarships.*)

In 500 typed words or less, describe your participation in an activity or organization whose mission and vision centered on serving those who may be marginalized in the community for any reason or who needed your assistance to overcome a personal or professional challenge. Discuss the influences – positive or negative—on you that led you to participate in efforts to serve others.

Your essay should provide insight into your future education and career choices, including those which are based upon your own commitment to serving others.

After you have read the brief description here of Bishop Ruffin, the *Legacy Honoree*, complete the application and combine it with the other required materials for submission and mail it to the Committee:

*Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders Legacy Scholarships Committees  
c/o High Desert Community Foundation  
Post Office Box 2028  
Apple Valley, CA 92307*

NOTE: Applications must be typed and completely filled out. Handwritten or incomplete applications will not be considered by the Committee.

**Bishop Nathaniel Ruffin**  
**September 19, 1934-November 19, 2009**

Nathaniel J. Ruffin grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, graduated from high school, and immediately joined the Navy. After serving in the Navy for four years, he entered the U.S. Air Force where he would serve his country for another twenty years, including tours of duty in Viet Nam during the war.

He married his wife Marie and moved to George Air Force Base in Victorville to begin the next phases of his career. Reverend Ruffin served as pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church, and then, as Bishop Ruffin, he went on to found his own church, Spirit of Christ Tabernacle in 1982. He continued to provide not only spiritual leadership as a clergyman, but as Counselor Ruffin, he advised many in personal and family matters.

Against a backdrop of active participation in the community, he served as a counselor at Victor Valley High School, and he was elected to the board of trustees of the Victor Valley College. As an actively contributing member of the broader community, he would found the annual Dr. Martin Luther King program and the Black Heritage Committee, among other programs that promoted tolerance and understanding among people in the High Desert.

Much of his passion for serving others, however, was directed to providing mentoring support for groups of teens and young adults of *all* colors, *all* ethnicities and *all* religious affiliations. His students found in Mr. Ruffin an accessible and caring counselor who was often called upon to help students experiencing a crisis.

Bishop Ruffin was deeply and emotionally invested in the High Desert area. Outside of his family, nothing was more important to him than the well-being and success of *all* of its residents—which would be his life's mission until his death.

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, CA Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ or Message phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

2. EDUCATION

Last high school attended \_\_\_\_\_

Dates attended (Month/ Year) \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate? Yes \_\_\_ (Month/Year) \_\_\_ No

School/Institution currently attending or planning to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Start date or proposed start date \_\_\_\_\_

Planned course of study, education or career goals \_\_\_\_\_

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3. **Resume**. Include a resume of two (2) pages or less as part of this application. **Note: A resume that exceeds page requirements may not be considered by the Committee.**

4. **Letter of Reference** Please attach *at least one but no more than two letters* of reference that support your application. **Note: All letters must be typed and must not exceed 300 words. Letters not typed or those which exceed 300 words may not be read by the Committee.**

5. **Official Transcripts** are required of all students as part of the application package. Before the scholarship is awarded to the successful applicant, a final Official Transcript will be required to be submitted to DVL. Applicants graduating from high school also must include a "letter of acceptance" from the institution they plan to attend. Applicants currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution must present evidence of "academic progress" from an institutional official *at the counselor level or above from the institution in which they are enrolled.*

6. **Institution Accreditation.** *For applicants to be eligible for the Legacy Scholarship, all education institutions to be considered by applicants or in which they are enrolled must be "regionally accredited."* Accreditation information usually can be obtained from the Registrar of the institution.

7. **Original Essay.** Write an original essay as directed in the first part of this application.

**Applicant Certification**

I certify that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of information may result in termination of my application or of any scholarship award granted to me.

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_