



Dreamers, Visionaries & Leaders
Legacy Scholarships
GARNER C. MORRIS

APPLICATION PERIOD:
January 2 through March 20, 2026

*All applications must be received by the High Desert Community Foundation no later than 5pm, March 20, 2026. **IMPORTANT: Handwritten, incomplete or late applications will not be considered by the Committee. Scholarship Award amount is \$500.00***

Prior to submitting your application, please read carefully all eligibility requirements for applying for the **GARNER C. MORRIS DVL LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP** at: www.dvlproject.com, and the guidelines for writing the personal statement which are included with this application.

Eligibility Criteria

For the **Morris Legacy Scholarship**, student applicants will demonstrate a continuing commitment to service in aerospace, aviation, military science or other closely related fields. Because SMSGT Morris believed that we can enrich our communities through community service and advocacy, the Selection Committee will take a strong interest in applicants that have a community or political involvement orientation.

A virtual interview may be scheduled. This is at the discretion of the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Letter of Reference: Please attach **two** letters of reference that support your application. At least one reference letter should be from an individual who is in the industry. **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.**

Personal Statement

As part of the application for the **Garner C. Morris Scholarship**, you are required to write a personal statement. (*Note: you are cautioned against simply “recycling” personal statement/essays used for college applications or other scholarships.*)

In 300 typed words or less, describe the influences on your interests or choices in aerospace, aviation, military science or a related field as defined in the **Attachment**. These influences—positive or negative—can be an event, an instructor, family members or other impactful sources. Your personal statement should provide insight into your current achievements or how you overcame adversity, your expectations for future study and career choices, and **how you intend to give back to your community.**

Eligible Student Criteria

- Who are between the ages of 18 years old and 24 years old” eligible students will be at least 18 years old by December 30, 2026, and no older than 24 years old by July 1, 2026
- Who are graduating high school seniors with *a minimum* 3.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale, or who are continuing enrolled post-secondary students with *a minimum* 3.00 GPA on a 4.00 scale, AND
- Who are graduating from *regionally accredited* public or private high schools by July 1, 2026 eligible students include those graduating from charter high schools, religiously affiliated high schools or home schools or home school programs in the High Desert region and which are *regionally accredited*” OR
- Who are enrolled in a *regionally accredited* post-secondary institution.

*Note: students enrolled in or planning to attend an institution that is **not** regionally accredited are **not eligible** for consideration for the scholarship.*

- All students must be residents of California for *at least* three (3) years and who are graduating or have graduated from a regionally accredited high school in the High Desert region.

After you have read the brief description of Garner C. Morris the *Legacy Honoree* as provided in the application, 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.

Garner C. Morris September 16, 1933-March 21, 2020

Garner C. Morris was raised on his family’s farm in Batesville, Mississippi. He joined the U.S Air Force as in 1954 where he provided maintenance support for the B-36, B-47, and F4 bombers, serving in Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, China, and Denmark. After 30 years of service (20 years at George Air Force Base), he retired as a SMSGT.

He embarked upon a second career with Northrup-Grumman for 17 years as a B-2 Flight Test System Safety and Human Factor’s Engineer. While working full-time and supporting his family, he attended college, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management from Southern Illinois University.

Fondly known as “Mr. Victorville”, he passionately pursued community advocacy until his death in March 2020. In the mid-60s, he advocated against discriminatory practices occurring at George Air Force Base. He held charter memberships in the NAACP, High Desert Lodge #107, and the High Desert Flowers Chapter #93. He regularly attended the Victorville City Council Meetings, worked various political campaigns, served on a variety of community committees including Emmanuel Temple CME Church’s Community Concerns Committee, counseled veterans on benefits entitlements, and mentored young adults. He served as a Field Representative for 1st District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, and later as a Community Liaison Officer for 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood. As a community representative, he sat on the San Bernardino County Treasury Oversight Committee for 15 years. He lived his life serving his Country, Community, Church, and Family.

Application for Garner C. Morris Scholarship

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_____

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 postsecondary 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. **Personal Statement.** Write a personal statement 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_____

ATTACHMENT

Career Fields

(The following list is an example of career fields in the area. The list is not inclusive.)

Aerospace Engineer
Air Traffic Controller
Aircraft Accident Investigator
Aircraft Mechanic Technician
Airline, Military, and Commercial Pilots
Astronautical Engineer
Aviation
Aviation Maintenance and Mechanic
Aviation Safety
Aviation Security
Avionic Engineer (Electrical, Systems, or Electronics)
Avionic Technician
Computer Hardware Engineer
Cyber Security
Flight Attendants
Meteorologist
Military