ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF
2023-2024 Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program
for Spouses of Active, Retired and Deceased Soldiers

GENERAL INFORMATION

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a non-profit organization with the primary mission of providing financial assistance to Soldiers and their dependents in time of valid emergency need. The Scholarship Program was established in 1976 as a secondary mission to help Army families with undergraduate college expenses.

We communicate **primarily by email**; therefore, please add scholarships@aerhq.org and angie.pratt@aerhq.org to your email contacts to prevent our communications from being labeled as spam. If you need assistance or have questions during the application process, email scholarships@aerhq.org.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- The Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program provides Spouses of active duty or retired Soldiers, and widows(ers) of Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status, with financial assistance to pursue their first undergraduate college degree. Spouses of National Guard/Reserve Soldiers activated on Title 10 Orders are also eligible. **Spouses of Soldiers who have separated from the Army without retiring are not eligible**.

- Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program offers scholarships based solely on financial need as evidenced by the Student Aid Report (SAR) generated after the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is completed. *See the FAFSA instructions on the AER website for further guidance.*

- Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program is not an entitlement or automatically approved. Award amounts are not guaranteed from year to year and are based on the scholarship budget, total number of applications received, and the student's enrollment for each term (full-time or part-time).

- Applicants may submit an application at any time during the year. Please refer to the following Time Table for details on the application cycles and awarding schedule

- A recipient is eligible to receive scholarships for up to the equivalent of four academic years of full-time study. An application must be submitted once for each academic year.

- After your scholarship application is approved, you will receive an email providing your award amount, based on the enrollment on your application, and instructions to accept your award. Then, prior to each subsequent semester for which you have indicated enrollment on your application, you will receive an email with your award amount. ***The Time Table shows the dates you can expect to receive these emails***.

- The scholarship funds are mailed or electronically transmitted directly to the schools (based on the school's preference) each term; the recipient will also be notified. Funds are to assist with tuition, fees, books, and supplies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Student must be a dependent Spouse and registered as the Spouse of the Soldier in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System).

- Student must be pursuing their first undergraduate degree as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited post-secondary or vocational institution listed in the US Department of Education's Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions (http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx). Those pursing a second bachelor's degree may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Scholarship cannot be used for graduate level courses.

- Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.

- Student must not be on active duty, in a reserve component, or a retiree of the Army, National Guard, Reserves, or other military branch. Because financial need is already met, students attending Military Service Academies are not eligible.

- Any Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program recipient who also receives funding from other sources (i.e., GI Bill, scholarships, My CAA, VA benefits, etc.) may not be eligible to receive their full scholarship from AER. *Please consult with your Financial Aid Counselor; the Financial Aid Office at each school will determine the recipient's final eligibility based on the complete financial aid package*. Once all costs are covered each term, any remaining AER scholarship funds will not be provided directly to the recipient and must be returned to AER.

APPLICATION CYCLES AND TIME TABLE

Refer to the Application Cycle Time Table below to determine when you should apply to receive your funds when needed. Based on the Application Window in which you apply, your application will be considered for the **Applicable Semesters** listed in the Time Table. *We cannot award funds for a semester/term that has already passed as of the date you submit your application. Example: If you apply in January 2024, your application will only be considered for a scholarship for Spring 2024 and Summer 2024.*

Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program 2023-2024 Academic Year Application Cycle Time Table				
Cycle	Application Submitted in	Scholarhips Awarded for	Recipients Notified by	Scholarship Funds Sent to Schools in
1	June 2023	Fall 2023 Spring 2024 Summer 2024	July 15th	**Fall:** July **Spring:** December **Summer:** May
2	July 2023		August 15th	**Fall:** August **Spring:** December **Summer:** May
3	August 2023		September 15th	**Fall:** September **Spring:** December **Summer:** May
4	September 2023		October 15th	**Fall:** October **Spring:** December **Summer:** May
5	October 2023		November 15th	**Fall:** November **Spring:** January **Summer:** May
6	November 2023		December 15th	**Fall:** December **Spring:** January **Summer:** May
7	December 2023		January 15th	**Fall:** January **Spring:** January **Summer:** May
8	January 2024	Spring 2024 Summer 2024	February 15th	**Spring:** February **Summer:** May
9	February 2024		March 15th	**Spring:** March **Summer:** May
10	March 2024		April 15th	**Spring:** April **Summer:** May
11	April 2024		May 15th	**Spring:** May **Summer:** May
12	May 2024		June 15th	**Spring:** June **Summer:** June
13	June 2024	Summer 2024	July 15th	**Summer:** July
14	July 2024		August 15th	**Summer:** August
15	August 2024		on a weekly basis	**Summer:** on a weekly basis

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The application and all required documents must be submitted **online**. ***Do not mail or email documents***. (READ THE DESCRIPTIONS OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BELOW)

1. **APPLICATION**
   The 2023-2024 Application is available by 1 June 2023.

2. **DD214**
   If the **Student** has prior military service, upload the Student's DD214 in the appropriate question. If the Soldier is retired, upload the Soldier's DD214 in the appropriate question.

3. **LEAVE AND EARNINGS STATEMENT (LES)**
   If the Soldier Sponsor is on active duty, the most recent LES must be uploaded. **Do not upload Orders unless the Soldier is on Title 10 Orders.**

4. **TRANSCRIPTS**
   Unofficial transcripts are acceptable. Transcripts MUST show the student's name, school name, all college course work through the student's most recently completed semester/term, and cumulative GPA based on a 4.0 scale. If no previous college, upload a letter stating this is the first time the student is going to be enrolled in college classes and enter the cumulative GPA as 2.0.

5. **2023-2024 STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)**
   The Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is used to determine each applicant's need. The FAFSA may be completed after 1 October for the following academic year at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. For 2023-2024, the student must use data from his/her 2021 tax return. The SAR can be downloaded from the FAFSA website a few days after the FAFSA application is completed. *We require the COMPLETE SAR. Please see our SAR instructions for guidance.*

6. **FEDERAL TITLE 10 ORDERS (if applicable)**
   If the Soldier Sponsor is on Title 10 Active Guard or Reserve orders, upload a copy of the Title 10 Orders showing federal activation for the entire time the student is applying for a scholarship. An ETS date must be provided.

7. **CASUALTY REPORT (if applicable)**
   If the Soldier died while on active duty, upload a copy of the casualty report.

PLEASE NOTE: All documents must be uploaded in pdf or similar non-editable format. All changes to submitted information must be submitted in writing to scholarships@aerhq.org.

HOW TO APPLY

❖ Please be sure to read all of the information above in this document before continuing. It is all important and will prevent unnecessary emails, phone calls, and confusion.

❖ The application can be found here: https://aerhq.academicworks.com

❖ Once you click on the link, you will have to sign up, if you are a first-time applicant, or sign in, if you are a returning applicant. If you are a returning applicant, ***DO NOT USE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS TO CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT***. Please contact us if you don't remember your credentials.

❖ Once you enter your name in the General Application (new applicants only), you will be directed to the Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program. Be sure to complete the Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship application and not the MG James Ursano Children's Scholarship application.