



Update on the First Marine Division Association Scholarship Fund

From a grateful recipient...

September 15, 2014

Dear 1st Marine Division Association:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the generous scholarship award. You have given me the chance to achieve my dream of a college education and my goal of becoming a Doctor of Pharmacy. Your donations to the 1st Marine Division Association Scholarship FUND INC. have made it possible for sons and daughters of 1st Marine Division service members to continue our education and have the chance to attain our dreams. I would also like to thank Sergeant Major Juan Duff for his continued support and management of the scholarship awards.

I was just a toddler when my father, Thomas K. LaZore Jr., passed away unexpectedly, leaving my mother a widow with four children to care for. Although I do not remember my father, I have a great image in my mind of what he must have been like, and I am very proud to know he was a member of the 1st Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps. It is the love of his heritage and pride for our country that I have inherited, and I try to show throughout each day. My father's inspiring spirit has been like a candle lighting the way for our family by keeping us focused through any obstacles.

My father was most proud of his family and his service to the 1st Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps. My mother would keep his memory alive by sharing his cherished Marine Corps memorabilia with us. My mother is now physically disabled and my family struggles to meet everyday expenses, but she has taught me that nothing in life ever comes easy. There are those less fortunate, but those who strive for something great, will attain great things. This award has made it possible for me to attend college and it has helped to alleviate some of my financial burden so that I was able to concentrate solely on my academics and strive to achieve my educational goals.

I am a student at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Albany, New York studying towards my Doctor of Pharmacy degree. It is a very rigorous academic program, and I look eagerly to the year I receive my Doctorate degree. This scholarship has offered me the financial freedom which allowed me to solely concentrate on my academic progression. Along with my academics, for the last four years I also tutored at the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Academy. The ACPHS Academy is an afterschool enrichment program that brings elementary and middle school students to the campus for specialized science instruction. The classes are taught by local schoolteachers and assisted by ACPHS students, like myself, who serve as mentors to the young scholars. I believe it is the opportunity to work with the ACPHS mentors that really helps motivate the young students to learn and excel. I try to create an interest in science, and then students eagerly want to

explore science in a much greater depth. I encourage them to hone their problem solving skills. I'll show them the way, but they have to find the answers. I love giving the children the chance to do hands-on experiments and learn the basics of scientific research.

What is also exciting to me is that these are inner-city youths with average grades, who may think that college is not in their future, but who show an interest in science, and we try to inspire them and hope to help them reach their potential. The program has been shown to help students improve their core math and science skills, and nearly every student in the program passes the New York State science exam with high scores. Each year culminates with a science fair where the young students receive diplomas and showcase what they have learned and then a graduation ceremony concludes the year, which is attended by the students' families along with members of the College community.

In addition to what they learn in the classroom, we also take our students on tours of the campus so they can see all aspects of a college student's life. Along with science, I hope I have inspired these young students to one day want to attend college, perhaps even Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. So you see that your donations to the 1st Marine Division Scholarship Fund Inc, not only helped me further my education, but my scholarship award also inspired me to help others believe in themselves and to also believe that a college education is possible.

I hope that my mentoring these young students has inspired at least one youth to believe in themselves and their accomplishments, and believe that a college education is possible. If you strive for it, it is possible. I also hope that I have instilled in all of the youths I have mentored, the importance to voluntarily help others whenever they can. When I attain my Doctorate degree, I hope to have many more possibilities, like the mentoring I do, with which I can use to help Marine Corps service personnel and their families.

Although my father did not have the opportunity to attend college, he had dreams that his children would. The award of this scholarship has helped to make my father's and my dreams of my college education a reality. Again, I thank you for this scholarship award. I have set my sights on my goal, and I will, to the best of my ability, make you proud for awarding me this scholarship and giving me the opportunity to achieve my dreams. I would like to thank the donors of the scholarship fund. Your unselfish charitableness has inspired me to help others, and I hope that one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals, just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. LaZore

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