



NEWS RELEASE

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Sergeant Mike Acquarelli
macquarelli@cityofventura.ca.gov

The Ventura Police Officers' Association honors fallen officer with the Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship

Ventura, CA. – The Ventura Police Officers' Association (VPOA) proudly announces that more than \$7,000 will be awarded to scholarship recipients through its annual Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship Program. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2023.

"It is an honor to serve Ventura and give back to local students by making higher education more accessible for local students," said Officer Joseph Metz, President of the VPOA. "This marks the 17th year that we've provided scholarships through this program, which honors our only officer killed in the line of duty and his commitment to our city."

The scholarship will be awarded to three applicants who plan to explore a career in law enforcement. Scholarships are used to provide financial assistance for college tuition, books, and other educational expenses.

To be eligible for the Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship students must:

- Be entering their freshman through senior year in college
- Plan a course of study related to the field of public service
- Be a Ventura resident, have graduated from a high school in Ventura within the past three years, or be a Ventura Police Department employee or employee's child.
- Have a grade point average of 3.0 or better (based on a 4.0 system)
- Maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better if selected as a recipient
- Submit a resume of school and community activities, including a copy of transcripts through the most recent semester
- Submit a typed essay of 1,000 words or less on "Service, what it means to me"
- Submit a letter of recommendation from a public servant

In selecting scholarship recipients, the VPOA will consider academic achievement, community service, and financial need. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Scholarship awards will be presented in July 2023.

The annual Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship program honors Sergeant Darlon "Dee" Dowell, who was shot and killed on August 7, 1978. Sergeant Dowell is the only officer in Ventura's history to die in the line of duty.

For more information, please contact Sergeant Mike Acquarelli at 805-339-4486, or visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Dowell.

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