



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

What is the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship?

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship provides Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to the children and surviving spouses of Service members who died in the line of duty while on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100 percent level. Eligible beneficiaries attending school may receive:

How Can BDD Help Me?

- Full tuition and fees, paid directly to the school for all public school in-state students
 - Private or foreign school tuition and fees are capped at a statutory maximum
- A monthly housing allowance
- A books and supplies stipend

Who is Eligible?

- Children of active-duty members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001
 - Eligibility ends on the child's 33rd birthday.
- Surviving spouses of active-duty members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001
 - Eligibility ends upon remarriage.

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” was signed into law on Aug. 17, 2017. It brings significant changes to Veterans’ education benefits. This new law provides that, as of Aug. 1, 2018, recipients of the Fry Scholarship may use the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Rules for Eligible Children Serving (or Who Previously Served) in the Armed Forces

You must relinquish eligibility under one of the following to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits:

- Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty
 - Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve
 - Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
 - Your character of discharge does not impact your eligibility.
- If you are on active duty, you will receive benefits at the active-duty rate.
- You may qualify for up to 36 months of benefits under the Fry Scholarship Program and another 36 months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for your own service.
- You may also receive additional entitlement if another parent transfers entitlement to you.

Children Who Have Used or Wish to Use Entitlement Under Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA)

If you are eligible for the Fry Scholarship, you may also be eligible for DEA. The benefits cannot be used at the same time. You may qualify for up to 48 months of benefits between the two programs. You can learn more about DEA on the Education and Training website: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp>.

Surviving spouses must decide which benefit they wish to receive. If you elect to receive DEA, you cannot receive the Fry Scholarship in the future. Or, if you elect to receive the Fry Scholarship, you cannot receive DEA in the future. Once you submit your choice, it cannot be changed. Carefully review both programs before making a decision.

How to Apply

You can apply for DEA by completing the online application at <https://www.vets.gov/education/apply>.

Other Ways to Apply

- Visit your closest VA regional office. Find your nearest location at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>.
- Work with your school's certifying official. You can find this person in the registrar or financial aid office.
- Call 888-442-4551 (888-GI-BILL-1) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, and request an application. You can fill out the application and mail it to the VA regional claims processing office located near your school. Find a list of regional claims processing offices here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/regional_processing.asp.

Use the GI Bill Comparison Tool to explore potential programs. You can find the tool at <https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>. Visit the GI Bill website for any questions: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill>.