

JAMES H. PARKE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
FOR STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER AT
V.A. HOSPITALS AND CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

This program was originally started by James H. Parke and has carried on over many years with his original support and the continuing support of many Corporations, small businesses, volunteers, VA personnel, and those who have heard of the program and are anxious to contribute to it so that the efforts of student volunteers in these facilities can be brought to the attention of all Veteran Organizations and of the business and private community. All of these contributions keep this very worthwhile Scholarship Program alive, and give those student volunteers a little more incentive to keep up their great work and perhaps to continue volunteering through their adult lives. Some even continue their work with veterans by serving these same hospitals as a professional in later life.

All nominations and applications must be handled through the VA Hospital with which the student is affiliated. Guidelines must be followed and paperwork must be received in a timely manner.

Student hospital volunteers from age 14 through senior year of high school are eligible for this award. All nominations must be handled by and processed through the VA Hospital for which the student volunteers, and then submitted to the Parke Board. The National VAVS Representatives of all the member organizations of the VAVS who are present at the annual meeting elect this Board. There are seven (7) members. These members then meet and elect their officers - each for a three-year period, and terms are staggered so there are always continuing officers. Selection of winners - usually first, second and third places are made by the Board, upon recommendation of the selection committee.

Prizes are determined by available funds - the interest from the on-hand balance of the fund. Interest from the account is the only amount that can be awarded.

If you have a friend, relative, etc, who is a student volunteer and meets the time and activity criteria, we strongly urge you to ask the student's family to pursue this quest. Amounts change from year to year, and guidelines can be altered when necessary. Therefore, these specifics should be obtained from the Chief of Voluntary Service at the hospital in question. In the year of this writing (2001) the prizes awarded to the students were \$10,000, \$6,000 and \$4,000. Prizes can be used for education only and should be used before age 25 is attained.

Help any eligible student hospital volunteer...no contest can be won if entry is not made.

Applications for this scholarship award should be available at your VA Hospital the early part of the year, must be completed by the student volunteer with personal data, volunteer history and his/her personal comments, and accompanied by letter of recommendation from student's supervisor, member of hospital administration, and possibly a community administrator.

GOOD LUCK!