

The John L. Patton Memorial Scholarship Fund

HISTORY

The John (Jack) L. Patton Memorial Scholarship was established in 2008 by James G. Cardillo and is held by the Catholic Community Foundation. Mr. Cardillo specified that **distributions from the Fund be used to help defray the cost of tuition for one year for a student enrolled at St. Peter Chanel High School recommended by the Principal of St. Peter Chanel High School and approved by Mr. Cardillo**. In consideration of the closing of St. Peter Chanel High School in 2013, the Scholarship agreement was amended by Mr. Cardillo, effective for 2014-2015 and subsequent academic years.

Purpose

Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year, distributions from the John L. Patton Memorial Scholarship Fund will be used to provide tuition assistance to children of veterans attending Catholic high schools owned by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland or *Diocesan Owned High Schools* (DOHS). The DOHS are Cleveland Central Catholic, Elyria Catholic, Holy Name, Lake Catholic, and Villa Angela-St. Joseph (VASJ). The scholarship is a one-time award without renewal. However, the principals may recommend renewals from time to time which will be approved by Mr. Cardillo and at his discretion.

Scholarship Value

The amount of the John L. Patton Memorial Scholarship will, when possible, amount to full tuition for one academic year.

Guidelines and Criteria

Principals of Diocesan owned high schools provide selected candidates, who meet the criteria below, with the scholarship application:

- A current 10th or 11th grader applicable to their junior or senior year, who is involved in school life and consistently demonstrates positive character traits
- The student must also:
 1. Demonstrate financial need by completing a FACTS application
 2. Achieve a 3.0 or higher GPA, documented by attaching their most recent report card
 3. Complete a one-page essay which reflects on the life of John L. Patton, and their own parent/grandparent who serve(d) in the military (after reading biography of John L. Patton on pages 5 & 6)
 4. Return application and all required information to Principal by March 1, 2026

Principal's Requirements:

- Review completed applications for required documentation submitted by the student applicant, including the one-page essay, and their most recent report card
- Complete the *Principal* portion of the application
- Submit **All Applications** by March 15, 2026 to:

The Office of Catholic Education
Attn: Cindy Williams
1404 East 9th Street 2nd floor
Cleveland, OH 44114

Selection of the John L. Patton Memorial Scholarship Recipient:

Representatives from the OCE will review all applications and select one student to receive the scholarship. That student and their principal will be notified in May/2026. OCE will notify Mr. Cardillo of the recipient's name and give him an account of total participants and their nominating high school.

Timeline:

January 15, 2026	Scholarship open to apply
March 1, 2026	Applications due to Principal
March 15, 2026	Applications due to OCE
May/2026	Notification letter sent to the winner and copy sent to their school

Call Cindy at 216-696-6525 ext. 2830 with questions

The John L. Patton Memorial Scholarship Fund
Application for the 2026-2027 Academic Year

For Completion by Parent/Student:

Student Applicant _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

School Name _____ Grade _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Please provide the information below regarding the parent/grandparent who currently serves in the military or is a veteran:

Name _____ parent or grandparent _____

Currently serves Branch _____ Veteran Branch_____

For Completion by Principal:

I nominate this student for the John L. Patton Memorial Scholarship because:

Tuition Amount for 2026-2027 \$ _____ Student's GPA _____

Optional comments regarding scholastic achievements of this nominee:

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

For Completion by Student

Read the biography of John L. Patton for whom this scholarship is named (page 5 & 6). Reflect on his life and think about your own parent/grandparent who currently serves or is a veteran in the military. What strong message do you take away for your own life from what you have read and experienced?

Name _____ Signature _____

School Name

BIOGRAPHY OF JACK PATTON

Jack Patton was a 1966 graduate of St. Peter Chanel High School, where he played basketball, ran track and cross country, and was on the student council.

After graduation, and not having enough money to attend college, Jack worked at various jobs including time as an X-Ray technician at Brentwood hospital. In July of 1967, with the draft looming, he decided to join the Army, and enlisted as a combat medic. Upon completion of combat medical school Jack decided he wanted to serve his country with the best and went to Fort Benning, Georgia to become an Airborne Ranger.

On February 18, 1968 Jack arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to Company A 2nd Bn. 2Bde 501st Infantry 101st Airborne Division, the famous Screaming Eagles. The 101st was based at Phu Bai in I Corps., near the DMZ between North and South Vietnam.

During his tour Jack received two Bronze Stars for Valor and two Purple Hearts. He earned his first Bronze Star on April 7, 1968, when he rushed onto the battlefield under intense enemy fire to drag wounded comrades to safety and administer treatment. In this engagement, he was grazed by an enemy bullet and received his first Purple Heart. His second Bronze Star was earned on May 13, 1968. He again braved enemy fire, with no thoughts to his own safety, to treat wounded soldiers from three different companies, and had to be treated for exhaustion after the battle.

Jack's tour of duty abruptly ended on June 13, 1968 when on patrol he stepped on a land mine. Incredibly he remained conscious after the explosion and was able to apply two tourniquets, from his medic bag, to his shattered legs, an action which saved his life. All major bones in both legs were broken, and his body was riddled with shrapnel including a piece that had taken out his left eye and lodged in his head. He received his second Purple Heart that day.

Jack was medevaced to the hospital ship USS Sanctuary where he was initially treated, before being transferred to the 249th General Hospital in Japan. After a week of treatment Jack was flown to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. where he spent the next year undergoing numerous operations, skin grafts and rehabilitation. On June 13, 1969, he was placed on the Disability Retired List and given an Honorable Discharge from the Army. Exactly one year after being horrendously wounded, he miraculously walked out of Walter Reed Army Hospital and went home.

Jack spent the next few years working and traveling the country with friends. He attended Cleveland State University for one year before taking a job at the Naval Finance Center in Cleveland in 1976. After numerous promotions he applied for, and received, a position with the Naval Board of Corrections at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. in 1980.

While in Washington, he slowly started jogging to build up the strength in his injured legs. Eighteen years after stepping on a land mine and wondering if he would ever

walk again Jack entered and finished the Marine Corps Marathon on May 6, 1986. A confirmed bachelor, Jack fell in love and married Kathy Nolan on February 13, 1999 in a small ceremony at his home in Woodbridge, VA. The couple had known each other since high school.

On Sept. 11, 2001 Jack was researching a case at the Naval Annex across from the Pentagon when he heard a deafening noise. The vibration rattled the windows and almost knocked him down. He watched as American Airlines Flight 77 crossed the street, knocking down telephone poles and slammed into the Pentagon, bearing witness to one of the worst terrorist attacks in history. Although shaken, his combat instincts took over and he was soon assisting in rescue operations.

On April 1, 2004 Jack retired from the government and moved back home to Ohio. He was enjoying his retirement with friends and family when he was besieged with a series of medical setbacks; a heart attack, gall bladder operation, and a stroke. In each case he rehabilitated himself, regained his speech and strength and got back on his feet.

On December 20, 2006 Jack told his wife that he could not move his legs. He was life flighted to University Hospital and went into a coma. Two days later the doctors told his family that he was brain dead. Surrounded by family and friends, Jack was taken off life support and died peacefully.

Jack was entitled to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors, but had chosen instead a plot in a small country cemetery near his home. The local VFW provided a 21-gun salute and two active military personnel presented the flag that covered his coffin to his wife with the thanks of a grateful nation. His duty to his country fulfilled his honor and bravery unquestioned; he was laid to rest at Slytor Cemetery in Burton, Ohio on December 28, 2006. An American hero who represented the best of a generation and will always be remembered in the *hearts and minds* of those he touched throughout his life.