April, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

In 1996, Somers volunteer Firefighter/EMT Craig Arnone was killed while fighting a fire in Somers. The Somers Volunteer Fire Department elected to use the donations received in his memory to establish a scholarship fund for students pursuing post High School education in a Medical, Paramedical or Public Safety program. This scholarship is open to students from Somers and the towns that provide the majority of the mutual aid to the Somers Fire Department and Ambulance. High school and college students from your department meet this criterion.

We have enclosed a description of the Scholarship and an application. We would appreciate your making students that are pursuing post High School education in a Paramedical or Public Safety program aware of this program. The deadline for applications is May 17, 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing policies please feel free to post this letter and the two enclosures on your school’s or agency’s web page or social media page so that it can be downloaded by the applicant. Applications and essays are to be mailed. No hand delivered applications will be accepted at the station.

Thank you,

Patricia Loftus

Patricia Loftus for the Craig Arnone Memorial Scholarship
Enclosures (2)
Craig Arnone Scholarship rules

The Somers Fire Department Association offers the Craig Arnone Memorial Scholarship to eligible applicants pursuing post-secondary education in a Paramedical, Medical or Public Safety program. This $1,000.00 scholarship is open to any resident of Somers, Ellington, Enfield, Stafford, East Windsor, East Longmeadow or Hampden or a relative of the Somers Fire Department. The scholarship is awarded to a student in any year of post-secondary education providing he/she is enrolled for the school year following the award in the spring and has not received the award previously.

The major criteria for the award are based on the student’s community involvement, in particular how the student made the community a better place to live. Academic performance will be included in the review but is of secondary importance.

The following rules govern the Craig Arnone Memorial Scholarship.
1. An eligible candidate must be a resident of Somers or Somers department family member, or from the mutual aid companies in Tolland County, CT plus Hartford County towns as listed above. Also invited are those living in MA who are eligible to respond to emergencies in Somers and are from East Longmeadow or Hampden.
2. All candidates must be a High School graduate or graduating senior.
3. All candidates must be enrolled in a Paramedical, Medical, or Public Safety program. The programs may include fire and emergency medical training as well as criminal justice and police.
4. The application must be completed and signed by the applicant.
5. A one- or two-page essay must accompany the application. The essay should describe the applicant’s community service / community involvement in high school and / or college. This is not an essay contest. It is a vehicle designed to show what you have achieved by volunteering in the community and how you intend to use that learning experience in your future professional life.
6. The application, including the essay must be submitted by May 17, 2021.
7. The decision of the Scholarship Committee is final.
Application for Craig Arnone Memorial Scholarship

Name: ____________________________________________
                   First       Middle       Last

Address: ____________________________________________
                   Number & Street.   Town.   State   Zip

Program enrolled in _________________________ Length of program _______
Name of school: ______________________________________________________
Address of School: ______________________________________________________
Phone number: ______________________________________________________

High School: _________________________ Year graduating or graduated: _______
Address of High School ______________________________________________________
Average grade in High School _________________________

List three references:

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I have read the rules governing the Craig Arnone Memorial Scholarship and agree to abide by them. The information presented herein is true.
As a reminder, this is primarily an action-based scholarship not an academic one or essay contest.

________________________  __________________
Signature of applicant.  Date

Please send completed application and essay to:
Somers Volunteer Fire Department Association
Attention: Patricia Loftus / CAMS
400 Main St.
Somers, CT 06071
If you have any questions regarding the Scholarship please call Patricia Loftus @ 860-749-6189.
Applications must be postmarked by May 17, 2021 and received by May 20, 2021.