



For Immediate Release

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Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship Fund

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**Four Orange County Veterans Honored as Recipients of the 2018 Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarships:
\$25,000 in higher education scholarships awarded to Carlon Manuel, Angelica Garcia, Alex Juhn and John Cairns**

Newport Beach, Calif. - August 3, 2018 – The Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship Fund for Veterans, managed by the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF), has awarded \$25,000 in 2018 higher education scholarships to four Orange County-area veterans, Carlon Manuel, Angelica Garcia, Alex Juhn and John Cairns. The new awards raise to ten the number of individual scholars, totaling \$113,500, in the three-year old effort to support area veterans seeking higher education.

2018 Award Recipients:

Carlon Manuel

A U.S. Marine, Carlon Manuel, has a long history of community service. He currently serves as the Pathway Innovation & Institutional Effectiveness Reentry Coordinator at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, where he has facilitated “A Suit 4A Suit,” Veterans Clothing Closet, which has supplied over \$700,000 in clothing to more than 500 veterans and active duty military members. Carlon is also the Veteran Resource Director at Casa De Rosa, a 35-apartment unit project for single Veterans with children located in the University of Southern California enclave in Los Angeles.

Carlon, a single father of six children, will use the \$15,000 scholarship to support his studies at the Argosy University, where he is pursuing a doctoral degree in Institutional Leadership with the goal of founding a new non-profit organization Indivisible Men. “After my military service, I became homeless. I pursued my undergraduate, and graduate studies while homeless, working out of Starbucks to put out job applications and showering at 24 Hour Fitness,” he said. “I was still homeless when I walked across the stage to receive my graduate degree. I intend to use my scholarship to further serve the Veteran communities in the region.”

Angelica Garcia

A U.S. Air Force member, Angelica Garcia is the first female to receive a Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship. Angelica has earned a \$2,500 scholarship to assist in her pursuit of a B.A. in Psychology, especially child development, at Chapman University. A Tustin High School graduate, Angelica serves with the military police

“As the mother of a daughter, I was frightened to leave her behind to go through military bootcamp. But I graduated boot camp and, two years later, was on my way to a frightening deployment to the Middle East. It took all the courage I had. After long months, I was reunited with my daughter. However, I was physically home, but not mentally home. My daughter gave me the motivation I needed to push forward and re-enroll in school, where I am now attending my senior year at Chapman. I am the first generation in my family to attend college, and the Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship award will help me reach my goal to give back to my community.”

John Cairns

John Cairns is a graduate of Anaheim’s Loara High School, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree at CSU Fullerton, where he is the Operations Officer of the Fullerton chapter of the Student Veterans Association. For the last 27 years, John worked as a retail food manager full time.

Due to a severe back injury, John has not worked for over the last year and is returning to finish his Education degree, with an emphasis in Political Science and Public Administration, to pursue a new career. John served in the US Army with the 82nd Airborne from 1991 to 1994, during the Gulf War.

“I do not have any veterans’ education benefits available to me, including zero funds from the Montgomery G.I. bill to assist in my current academic endeavors. The assistance provided by the Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship will be paramount to achieving my degree,” said Cairns.

Alex Juhn

Alex is a returning Rick Hopcraft scholar, and has been awarded \$2,500 to continue his studies in Business Administration & Management at UC Irvine. Alex served as a Field Radio Operator attached to the 81mm Mortar Platoon of Weapons Company, 2/23 in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq. He received numerous awards, including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Assembly. The son of immigrant parents who started a family real estate company, Top Realty, Alexander intends to pursue a career in commercial real estate, including internationally.

About the Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship for Veterans

To learn more about the Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship for Veterans and its awardees, donors and golf tournament, visit: <https://www.rickhopcraftfoundation.org>. Scholarship applications from qualified veterans are accepted and awards are made annually. Contact Michelle Abril at OCCF for information and an application at mabril@oc-cf.org or (949) 553-4202.

Contributions can be made to the scholarship fund at oc-cf.org or by mail to Orange County Community Foundation, 4041 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 510, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

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The Rick Hopcraft Memorial Scholarship Fund is managed by OCCF. The scholarship is led by a committee that includes Steve and Janice Hopcraft, Ann Browning, Nancy Kindelan, Kristin and Chris Martin, Linda Eddy, Tom Conway, Nancy Park, Don and Linda Nemchock, and Michelle Abril of OCCF.

About Orange County Community Foundation

Founded in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation (OCCF) works with donors, strengthens the local nonprofit sector and works to find solutions to community needs. Since its inception, OCCF has awarded \$360 million in grants and scholarships and ranks among the top 10 percent in asset size among more than 750 U.S. community foundations. For more information, visit oc-cf.org or call (949) 553-4202. Be a part of our conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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