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Scholarships Available for Children of Veterans

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Veterans Services has announced two scholarship programs for eligible high school seniors who are the children of Cumberland County veterans. The scholarships are from the North Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs and the North Carolina Association of Veterans Services Officers.

The North Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs manages a scholarship for the children of certain categories of deceased, disabled, combat or POW/MIA veterans. The scholarship pays for four years of tuition and fees at a North Carolina state college or university. If the student attends a private school, the scholarship pays tuition up to \$4,500 a year for eight semesters, if used within eight years.

There are three categories in which a child is automatically granted the scholarship -- if his or her parent is a veteran who died during war-time service or from a service-connected wartime disability; is 100 percent disabled due to war-time disability; or was a former POW/MIA.

Competitive classes for the scholarship include children of veterans with 20 to 90 percent service-connected war- time disability; children of veterans who received a Purple Heart; children of veterans who receive non-service connected pension; children of veterans who received a campaign medal or if the war-time veteran parent is deceased.

To qualify, an applicant must be under the age of 25 and living in North Carolina. The student has to have been born in North Carolina and a resident of the state since birth, or the veteran parent was a legal resident of North Carolina at the time of entrance into the period of service considered for eligibility. The student must be a natural born child of the veteran or have been adopted prior to age 15.

The second scholarship is from the North Carolina Association of Veterans Services Officers and established to honor all deceased Veteran Service Officers and is open to any graduating senior whose parent is a resident of North Carolina and is an honorably discharged veteran. The scholarship pays \$500.

The deadline for both scholarships is Feb. 15, 2012. Applications and additional information on both scholarship programs are available at the Cumberland County Veterans Services Office, located in the Department of Social Services building at 1225 Ramsey St. Call (910) 677-2970 for more information.