



THE WESTMORELAND SCHOLAR FOUNDATION

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**THE
WESTMORELAND
SCHOLAR
FOUNDATION**

***AN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION DEDICATED TO
FOSTERING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN
THE AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLE***

"Rebuilding Bridges of Understanding"

***The Westmoreland Scholar Foundation
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The Westmoreland Scholar Foundation

“Rebuilding Bridges of Understanding...”

The years of the Vietnam War were a difficult and wrenching time that deeply effect the heart, mind and conscience of all those who lived through them. After more than two decades Vietnam is an issue that divides many of us, continues to raise old questions, and arouse fierce torments. When the United States normalized relations with Vietnam in 1995, a group of American veterans concluded that the time had come to put the past into perspective and begin the unfinished business of reconciliation between the American and Vietnamese people.

These veterans, many of whom knew great loss and suffering during their military service during the Vietnam War, sought to build a bridge to the Vietnamese people and the future through the formation of the ***Westmoreland Scholar Foundation***.

The ***Westmoreland Scholar Foundation*** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed for the purpose of educating those young people who can best contribute to reconciliation and harmony between the people of Vietnam and the United States and help reestablish bonds of friendship and respect. Only then will a peaceful and cooperative relationship between the United States and Vietnam be possible. The Foundation is today pursuing that goal in three areas:

- Providing scholarships for student's active in the Vietnamese-American community who demonstrates strong academic ability and high potential for service to the larger community.
- The establishment of opportunities for short-term study and humanitarian service in Vietnam.
- Creating programs for young Vietnamese students to study in the United States.

In less than two years, generous contributions by supporters of the ***Westmoreland Scholar Foundation***, and the support and commitment of The Citadel, Rockhurst College and Park College have made scholarships possible. With on going fund-raising initiatives in place, the number of ***Westmoreland Scholars*** will grow each year.

For more information contact the Westmoreland Scholar Foundation at (913) 682-0736



The Westmoreland Legacy

"Rebuilding Bridges of Understanding"

It is a name synonymous with courage, dedication, and honor. It is a name belonging to a man, and a family that accepted a difficult assignment at a very difficult time in our history. The Westmoreland Foundation seeks to honor General and Kitsy Westmoreland's years of service to our country by fostering a project close to their hearts.

General William C. Westmoreland assumed his first command in 1942 as a 28-year old when he was designated to lead the 34th Field Artillery Battalion in its first encounters with Hitler's legions in Africa and Sicily. In 1944 he led troops of the 9th Division (*the Old Reliabes*) ashore in the D-Day assault at Normandy's Utah Beach.

He returned to the United States in 1946 as acting commander of the 71st Division. In 1947, he and Kitsy Stevens Van Deusen were married after a war-interrupted acquaintance of ten years. They were blessed with three children: Katherine, James, and Margaret.

Following service with distinction in the Korean conflict he went on to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in 1952 and landed the coveted assignment as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 1964 he was selected, first as Deputy Commander and then, Commander of the United States Military Assistance Command in Vietnam.

Never an invisible partner, Kitsy Westmoreland also went to work during her husbands' tenure in Southeast Asia. In addition to a deep felt commitment to her family; Kitsy also felt a need to bring comfort to those who suffered. She personally trained hundreds of South Vietnam Red Cross volunteers and worked nearly everyday to help care for the wounded in military hospitals in Vietnam, Japan, the Philippines and Hawaii.

The foundation that is named in their honor seeks to provide advanced education for those young people with the highest potential for contributing to the reconciliation between two former enemies. Westmoreland Scholars are helping bridge the gap between peoples who seek peace, prosperity, and freedom through strong bonds of friendship and common understanding.

For more information contact the Westmoreland Scholar Foundation at (913) 682-0736



Supporting a Westmoreland Scholar

“Rebuilding Bridges of Understanding”

Access to higher education opens a New World of possibilities to young people. But it is a process that requires financial support. Experience with our pilot program at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, MO has shown that a contribution of \$18,000 will support one ***Westmoreland Scholar*** per academic year. As we look forward to building the Foundation's resources for the long-term, interest on an endowment of \$360,000 will safely support one student per year and ensure the continuation of such support into the future.

A \$1,000,000 endowment will come close to supporting three students each year without further augmentation and will, in fact, support more than that given the matching arrangement the foundation has concluded with its first academic partner, Rockhurst College.

Additional support will allow the ***Westmoreland Scholar Foundation*** to begin development of short-term educational and service programs in Vietnam for American students and opportunities for Vietnamese students to travel to the United States for college and university experiences.

We welcome contributions that are designated for any of these programs. We also suggest that corporations currently doing business in Vietnam are uniquely placed to offer first hand learning experiences for American young people through the creation of international internships. In addition, our academic partner has extensive experience in managing international education, internships, and cooperative learning. Programs like these not only benefit students, but also introduce our corporate partners to talented, creative, enthusiastic young people.

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Westmoreland Scholar Selection Process

“...Building Bridges of Understanding”

Westmoreland Scholars are selected on the basis of merit without regard to gender, religion, or financial need. To be considered for a **Westmoreland Scholar Award**, students must meet the following criterion:

- Active in the Vietnamese-American community,
- United States citizens, nationals, or permanent residents.
- Born after April 30, 1975.

The **Westmoreland Scholar** Selection Committee evaluates eligible applicants on a number of criterion which include:

- Evidence of leadership skills or potential.
- Cumulative grade point average.
- Written essay that describes the student's professional and academic aspirations.
- Written essay that describes the applicants involvement in the Vietnamese-American community.
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers or professors.
- Personal interviews with both the Screening Committee and the Selection Committee.

Westmoreland Scholar Programs are currently in place at The Citadel in Charleston, SC; Rockhurst College in Kansas City, MO and Park College in Parkville, MO. Recipients of an award are specifically identified as **Westmoreland Scholars** and continue to receive support as long as they make satisfactory progress toward completion of their degree. **Westmoreland Scholars** forfeit their degree if they leave their college or university.

The annual deadline for applications is March 26th. Finalists will be notified by mail.

For more information contact the Westmoreland Scholar Foundation at (913) 682-0736



The Westmoreland Scholar Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Westmoreland Scholars Make Historic Journey to Vietnam

**"Work-Study-Humanitarian Project aimed at speeding reconciliation between
United States and Vietnam..."**

**Two Westmoreland Scholar Foundation summer scholarship recipients have put
their textbooks on a back shelf to take part in a hands-on experience in Vietnam.**

**The students, sophomore Computer Science major Son D. Do of Kansas City and
junior English Literature major Joyce A. Nguyen of Beaumont, Texas, are both
enrolled at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri. They departed for Vietnam
in mid-July and will take part in a four-week humanitarian oriented work-study
experience at Da Nang General Hospital.**

**"Our first student ambassadors mark an important step forward," says Colonel
Roger Donlon, U.S. Army (Ret.) executive director of the foundation. "We are
committed to healing the wounds of war through education and first hand contact
between the people of our two countries. Our student ambassadors are helping
create new understanding between the American and Vietnamese people."**

**The goals of the foundation's student exchange have won the support of U.S.
Ambassador to Vietnam, the Honorable Pete Peterson. He believes, "The exchange
of students is clearly the long-term solution for improving understanding between
our two countries. I'm excited over the prospects for enlarging the Foundations
Scholarship program."**

**The foundation has also found the support of community leaders including
Vietnamese born Councilman Tony Lam of Westminster, California who stresses,
"the philosophy of the Westmoreland Scholar Foundation is embraced by those of
us who would like to see harmony between the U.S. and the *people* of Vietnam."**

**Named in honor of General and Mrs. William C. Westmoreland, the organization is
a non-profit, educational foundation, which makes college and university
scholarships available to eligible young people. Currently, programs have been
established in cooperation with Rockhurst College of Kansas City and Park College
of Parkville, both in Missouri.**

Both WSF summer scholars are scheduled to return to the U.S. in mid-August.