8-30-2013

Press release : 2013 : 08 : 30 : A generous gift from a military veteran to aid wounded warriors

Tom Scherberger

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases/473

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the University Advancement at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in USFSP News and Press Releases by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
A generous gift from a military veteran to aid wounded warriors

Posted August 30, 2013 at 3:35 pm by Tom Scherberger

Wounded USF St. Petersburg veterans will benefit from a generous gift to the USF Foundation from the estate of John W. Allwein, D.D.A, a St. Petersburg oral surgeon who served on the front lines during the Vietnam War and spent much of his adult life caring for veterans.

The Dr. John Allwein Scholarship for Military Veterans Injured in the Line of Duty was established in 2008. Upon Dr. Allwein’s death earlier this year, his estate provided additional funds to create a lasting legacy in support of wounded student veterans.

Dr. Allwein served in the 24th Evacuation Hospital in Vietnam, treating countless soldiers. “I witnessed firsthand what war can do to people, both physically and emotionally,” Dr. Allwein
once said. “No matter what level of care they received for their injuries, the extraordinary trauma they endured in combat will stay with them for the rest of their lives.”

After Vietnam, Dr. Allwein was a professor at Georgetown University before moving to St. Petersburg to be chief or oral surgery at Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center, a position he held until he retired in 2005.

“He was a very quiet, soft-spoken individual, but his passion was taking care of veterans,” said Mike Chaves, a longtime friend and executor of Dr. Allwein’s estate. “Virtually his entire career was devoted to serving veterans.” He also cared deeply about education, Chaves said.

Among the USFSP students who have benefitted from Dr. Allwein’s generosity is Michael Jernigan, a Marine who was blinded in both eyes by an improvised explosive device five weeks before he was to leave Iraq. Jernigan graduated last year with a BA in history and now works as a community outreach coordinator for Southeastern Guide Dogs.

The Allwein scholarship is designed for USF St. Petersburg student veterans severely injured in the line of duty, particularly those who were severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002, but is also open to injured veterans throughout the USF System.

“We are grateful to Dr. Allwein for his generosity and personal commitment to helping wounded student veterans achieve their dreams,” said USFSP Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska.

Related News

Posted in:
Community Connections
For Faculty & Staff
USFSP News

Tags:
Sophia T. Wisniewska