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Gold Star Students Encouraged to Apply for College Scholarships

Freedom Alliance Now Accepting Applications for Upcoming Academic Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. – (Sept. 13, 2017) – Freedom Alliance, an organization supporting our nation's military and injured service members, is encouraging Gold Star Families with college-age children to apply for a scholarship from Freedom Alliance. The nonprofit provides more than \$1 million each year in college scholarships to the children of fallen and disabled troops.

Gold Star students can learn more about scholarship opportunities and apply at <u>www.FAScholarship.com</u>.

For children who have lost a parent in military combat, each scholarship awarded honors the service and sacrifice of that American hero. Since 2003, Freedom Alliance has assisted more than 1,000 students.

"Those who have given their lives in military service," explained Tom Kilgannon, Freedom Alliance President, "deserve to have their memories live on. The best way to do that is to help their children achieve their dreams and aspirations. Every scholarship we provide to a Gold Star student is a hero remembered and a hero honored.



Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund recipients, all Gold Star students, participated in the 2017 Student Retreat in Washington, D.C.

"I encourage all Gold Star Families, or friends of Gold Star Families," Kilgannon continued, "to visit <u>www.FAScholarship.com</u> to learn

more about how Freedom Alliance may be able to help them achieve the dream of a college education."

Jacob Rangel is one such Gold Star student currently receiving scholarships from Freedom Alliance. He is beginning his senior year at Kutztown University and pursuing a degree in communications.

Jacob's father, Air Force Staff Sergeant Ray Rangel, was a firefighter with the 7th Civil Engineer Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base, near Abilene, Texas. In 2005, he died in Iraq trying to save two soldiers trapped in a Humvee that overturned in a canal. Rangel left behind a total of four children. Jacob's older brother, Justin, is also a recipient of a Freedom Alliance Scholarship.

Named as Freedom Alliance's 2017 Scholarship Ambassador, Jacob represented fellow scholarship students by sharing his story with Americans across the country, making media appearances and raising awareness of the sacrifices made by military families.

"I'm so grateful for Freedom Alliance and the assistance I've received," says Jacob. "It eases a lot of the financial burden that comes with a college education and allows me to focus on obtaining my degree, which I know would have made my father very proud. I encourage other students with circumstances like mine to apply and get the help that is available."



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There are an estimated 6,000 children who have lost a parent in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, who may be eligible for the Freedom Alliance Scholarship. It is awarded to undergraduate students once per academic year and is renewable for a total of four terms.

Freedom Alliance is now accepting applications for the upcoming academic year. Students interested in applying can find additional details online at <u>www.FAScholarship.com</u>.

About Freedom Alliance

Freedom Alliance is a charitable organization which provides help and support to wounded troops and military families. Freedom Alliance has awarded nearly \$12 million in college scholarships to the children of military heroes and spent millions more helping injured veterans and military families with recreational therapy, Heroes Vacations, care packages for deployed troops, mortgage-free homes, all-terrain wheel chairs and much more. You can learn more about Freedom Alliance at <u>www.FreedomAlliance.org</u> or <u>www.Facebook.com/FreedomAlliance</u>.

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