**The Noel E. Clarke Memorial Scholarship Award**

The recipient of this scholarship must be a senior attending John Marshall High School

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s) mobile \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative High School GPA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Intended field of study \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Priority selection will be given to those applicants pursuing a career in the fire sciences or first responder programs. Any related academic health care programs will also be considered.*

Name, address and phone number of intended school or program that applicant will be attending after high school graduation:

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**High School Activities Record**

Activity Years of Participation

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 **Voluntary Community Service**

Activity Hours Volunteered Name of Contact Person/Phone Number

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The applicant shall submit **2 current letters of recommendation**-one must be a teacher-the other can be a pastor/employer/coach etc. Letters of recommendations from relatives will not be accepted.

Please attach a **typed 500 word essay** to this application which gives a personal statement indicating why you are the best candidate to represent the memory of Fire Chief Noel E. Clarke, his life philosophy and belief of *“never giving up”*.

The family of Chief Clarke will award a $500.00 scholarship to the selected candidate.

Fire Chief Noel Edwin Clarke

“Noel Strong”

Noel Clarke was born on July 30, 1967. He spent his entire life proudly serving the citizens of his hometown, Moundsville, West Virginia. Noel was an outstanding leader, son, loving brother, father, uncle, nephew, cousin, and a great friend to all who knew him. He joined the brotherhood of fire fighters in 1997 and served as fire chief for the Moundsville Fire Department for 15 years. It gave Noel great pleasure and satisfaction to know that he helped to mold the new generation of fire fighters that have chosen to sacrifice their time for the cause of serving and helping others. He was the type of person who was always there for anyone who needed him. Noel truly made a difference.

Sadly, Noel was diagnosed with colon cancer and after a three year battle, died on November 9, 2017, at age 50. Noel redefined courage during his battle because of his forever-positive personality and his philosophy of never giving up. Upon learning that his cancer was not curable Noel stated, “*I have to make the best out of my life at this point. I have to get the word out for people to get screened for cancer. I know my life is now day-to-day, and I am going to live each of those days; I tell you that.”*

Even though cancer turned Noel’s life upside down and it was a struggle that he bravely fought every single day, he tried hard and did his best to keep life as normal as possible. Noel would often say it was all about doing as much as you can while you can. That was his mindset. This mindset caused Noel to set out on a mission. He became passionate about telling others to get annual cancer screenings. Chief Clarke spread that message in every possible way he could think of; his poignant posts on social media and his voice on radio broadcasts definitely encouraged others to get screened for cancer. Noel helped save many lives by spreading the word about the importance of cancer screening and early detection.

*“It’s not about me anymore. Instead, it’s about making people aware and helping them get checked for cancer. I will not give up. People have to take that step and do what they need to do to keep living. That is why I am fighting every day to stay alive, I will not give up.”*

*-Fire Chief Noel Clarke
Message delivered on the Watchdog Network AM 1600 WKKX and AM 1370 WVLY*

Noel did not spend his remaining days on earth counting down his days on a calendar, because frankly, he did not know how many days remained. He lived life to the fullest participating in as many activities as possible. Jumping out of an airplane, riding his ATV on the Hatfield-McCoy trail, sitting around a campfire with his friends at Fish Creek, taking a helicopter ride, and eating at as many local restaurants as possible. He was a big fan of being outdoors during all four seasons of the year. Noel was also an avid sports fan; always enjoying the Pittsburgh Penguins and West Virginia Mountaineers.

On the day following his 50th birthday, Fire Chief Noel Clarke celebrated his 20th anniversary with the city of Moundsville. He enjoyed serving the people who were his neighbors, his friends, and his family. Fighting fires was always in his blood; thus, cancer was not the first time Chief Clarke ever faced life and death situations. Cancer did not defeat Chief Noel Clarke. He won the battle by exemplifying the characteristics of a loving, kind and genuinely friendly person, who continued to care and serve mankind during the most difficult time of his life.

The Noel E. Clarke Memorial Scholarship Award was established by the family of Chief Noel Clarke to honor his life. This award is intended to honor a high school senior who best represents the characteristics of Noel and his philosophy of *“never giving up.”*