

THE REED-MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Awarded Annually by the
Cerro Gordo American Legion, Post #117 | Cerro Gordo, Illinois

THE REED-MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP

The Reed-Murray Scholarship was established in 1999 to honor the memories of two distinguished former teachers in the Cerro Gordo, Illinois school system, Flossie C. Reed and M. Irene Murray. These two outstanding teachers not only shared a longtime friendship, they shared a deep love of education. It was their strongest desire in life to help young people pursue and achieve their goals, so it is only fitting that they be remembered through this memorial scholarship award program.

The Reed-Murray Scholarship is awarded annually by the American Legion, Post #117, Cerro Gordo, Illinois. This one-year scholarship award is for \$4,000 and is given to a graduating senior from Cerro Gordo High School who has been accepted by a two-year or four-year accredited institution of higher learning.



Flossie C. Reed



M. Irene Murray

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- This completed application must be submitted by April 15 to:

The Reed-Murray Scholarship Committee
American Legion, Post #117
P.O. Box 743
Cerro Gordo, Illinois 61818
- The Reed-Murray Scholarship Committee will make the final selection and award the \$4,000 scholarship when the recipient provides proof of enrollment at the institution of their choice.
- Apply and be admitted to a two-year or four-year accredited institution for the succeeding school year by no later than May 1.
- Along with this completed application, submit two letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a faculty member, counselor, or administrator at Cerro Gordo High School, Cerro Gordo, Illinois. Letters of recommendation may be enclosed with your application or mailed directly to the scholarship committee at the above address.
- Please provide a personal photo. The photo will not be returned.
- The American Legion Scholarship Committee cannot receive this application and supporting materials in electronic form. Therefore, this electronic application, along with any electronic letters of recommendation and photo files, should be printed and physically mailed to the scholarship committee at the above address, so as to arrive no later than April 15.

FLOSSIE C. REED

Flossie C. Reed entered the world September 15, 1910, the second child born to Jess and May Woodard Mauer. The daughter of a tenant farmer, she grew up in the rural community of Kenney, Illinois and attended grammar school and high school in the town's only schoolhouse.

Flossie was a self-motivated young girl and she embraced reading and music from an early age. Her love of education led her to college at Illinois State Normal University (which later become Illinois State University) where she pursued a degree in general education. She paid for her education by working while attending school and after graduation went on to teach in rural Kenney in a one-room school house for the next fifteen years.

In 1946, Flossie's life took a wonderful turn when she met Paul Reed, a farmer from Cerro Gordo, Illinois. On May 8, 1947 the two were married in Manhattan, Kansas and then returned to Cerro Gordo to start their life together. The first of their two sons, David, was born in 1948 and the second, Richard, was born not long after in 1951. For the next five years Flossie became a full-time mother and wife, devoting her time to her sons and husband.

However, she never lost her love for the classroom and when her older son David started school in the fall of 1954, Flossie decided to return to teaching. An inspiration and loving mentor for her first-grade students, she not only taught them how to read but also how to be better people. Flossie Reed always had a hug or an encouraging word for each child she taught. She loved spending time with her students and helped instill in them the self-esteem necessary for future success. Her sons, David (Class of 1966) and Richard (Class of 1969), both attended local schools and graduated from Cerro Gordo High School. After teaching for over 25 years in the Cerro Gordo school district, Flossie retired in 1972.

She stayed involved in the community after retirement as a member of the United Methodist Church of Cerro Gordo, the Piatt County and Illinois Retired Teachers Associations, and the American Legion Auxiliary, Post #117. She passed away on January 25, 1995 in Monticello, Illinois after enjoying a lifetime devoted to teaching, her family, and four lovely grandchildren.



Flossie C. Reed

M. IRENE MURRAY

M. Irene Murray was born near Oblong, Illinois on January 27, 1912. Due to the premature death of her natural parents from tuberculosis, she was adopted and raised by Clarence and Carrie Walters, a farm couple from southwestern Indiana.

From an early age, Irene showed a very strong interest in reading and a natural love for books that stayed with her all of her adult life. Her adoptive parents were very supportive of her academic interests and encouraged her to pursue her education following elementary school and her graduation from nearby Graysville High School in Graysville, Indiana.

She entered college at Indiana State Teachers College (which later became Indiana State University) at Terre Haute, Indiana in 1932, paying her first semester's tuition with the proceeds from the sale of a pet pig she had raised on the family farm. Irene Murray received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Indiana State University in 1936, graduating with a dual major in Education and Library Science.

She taught in southern Indiana from 1937 through 1944, first in Spencer, Indiana and later in Huntingburg, Indiana. Early in her teaching career, she taught Mathematics, Health, Girl's Physical Education, and served as the school Librarian. After her marriage to Jesse M. Murray in 1943, she temporarily left teaching and dedicated the next period of her life to raising her two sons, Thomas A. Murray, born in 1945 and David K. Murray, born in 1948. Her family moved to Cerro Gordo, Illinois from Decatur, Illinois in 1949. In 1957, she resumed her teaching career at Cerro Gordo High School. During her fifteen-year tenure at Cerro Gordo, she taught English, Reading, and was the school's Librarian. She loved spending time in her library with individual students, helping them with their school projects and, quite often, serving as a personal mentor.

One of her most important roles; however, was to help students perceive the value of higher education and how to go about achieving their future career goals. She found this to be one of the most rewarding aspects of her professional life. Her sons, Thomas (Class of 1963) and David (Class of 1966), both attended local schools and graduated from Cerro Gordo High School. After a twenty-two year teaching career, she retired in 1972.

Following retirement, she was an active member of the Cerro Gordo Church of the Brethren and the American Legion Auxiliary, Post #117, Cerro Gordo, Illinois. Most of all, she enjoyed time with her family and her grandchildren. She passed away on March 13, 1985 at her home in Cerro Gordo, Illinois.



M. Irene Murray

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant's Name _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Home Address _____ Home Phone _____

College you plan to attend: _____

Intended Major: _____

On the date of this application is being submitted, are you accepted at this college/university for the succeeding school year? Yes No

Are you a member of the National Honor Society? Yes No

Other honors and achievements: _____

High School GPA _____ Class Rank _____

Total SAT Score _____ (If available)

Total ACT Score _____ (If available)

List the names of the two individuals submitting letters of recommendation:

_____ Letter enclosed? Yes No

_____ Letter enclosed? Yes No

(Applicant's Signature)

(Date)

Please respond to the following essay topics. Use a separate document, if necessary.

STATEMENT OF GOALS

Please provide a statement describing your educational, career, and personal goals:

WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP?

Please state why you feel you should be selected as this year's recipient of The Reed-Murray Scholarship:

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

List below your extra-curricular activities and interests (include jobs, hobbies, sports, or participation in church, civic, and service organizations):