Future Leaders for America Foundation seeks individual, corporate and charitable foundations and other 501.c.3 organizations to help fund these internships. Chairs are available for naming for each $5,000 internship funded. (For example, “The XYZ Corporation Chair for the study of Congressional Responsibility in National Defense and Homeland Security” or other words to that effect.) Chairs may also be funded “in perpetuity” for $100,000 each, from which 5% of the earnings of that endowment are used to fund the internship each year in perpetuity; the balance of annual earnings are retained in the fund to provide for principle growth in perpetuity and commensurate cost of living increases over time.

The Future Leaders for America Foundation
Washington Scholars Veterans Congressional Internship Program

Board of Directors
Rear Admiral [Ret.] James Carey
Chairman
6022 Knights Ridge Way
Alexandria, VA 22310-1635

Brian McManus, Esquire, Vice Chairman & Treasurer

Mr. Brian Phillips, Secretary

Stephen Hartwell, Member

Captain [Ret.] Patricia Tackitt, Member

Colonel [Ret.] Craig Carlson, Member

Mr. Jim Prendergast, Member

Mr. David Russell, Member

“The Greatest Casualty Is To Be Forgotten”
Training Tomorrow’s Leaders Today

Washington Scholars Veterans Congressional Internship Program

A semester or summer working for the Washington Scholars Veterans Congressional Internship Program can be one of the most exciting times of your life. Your internship will provide you with valuable knowledge, experience, and a broad network of professional contacts in the nation’s capitol. Washington offers so much, and it is all at your fingertips.

The Washington Scholars Veterans Internship Program places military veterans in premier internships in Congress. These positions offer a unique look at Washington and how the political process works from a hands-on point of view. All the previous interns agree: this is an opportunity like no other. You can learn more about how our government works in a few months with the Washington Scholars Internship Program than in a whole year in college or on the job.

Veterans Congressional Internship Program

Who:
Military veterans who have an interest in being able to qualify for employment on Congressional Staff. Applicants should be interested in Congressional Staff service as a career path and not a short term job.

What:
A ten-week paid internship on Congressional Staff, learning the Congressional Legislative and Budget process and obtaining the qualifications, experience, training, and credentials necessary to be a viable candidate for employment on Congressional Staff. These internships are overseen, administered, and mentored by the Washington Scholars Intern Program Management Team, a motivated group of more than 20 Washington Scholars Graduates now working full time in the nation’s capitol and “giving back” their time and expertise as successful graduates of the Washington Scholars Program by volunteering their service on the Management Team.

When:
Fall [usually beginning in September], Winter/Spring [start dates flexible from January through March], and Summer [start dates in late May or early June].

Where:
Congressional Staff, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC. Preferably on the staff of their own Congressman or Senator, but if those are unavailable, then on another Congressional Staff that will provide the necessary training, experience, qualifications, and credentials to qualify for future employment consideration on Congressional Staff.

Why:
To gain the requisite knowledge, experience, training, qualification, and credentials to be more competitive for employment on Congressional Staff.

To bring their valuable military service experience, training, and knowledge to Congressional Staff with a view towards enhancing Congress’ available on-staff expertise in military programs and projects through military veterans who have actually worked on those programs and experienced firsthand what worked (and what didn’t).

How:
Veterans may review application procedures and download forms at www.WashingtonScholars.org. Clearly identify the submitted application as Veterans Congressional Internship Program and the desired class (Fall, Winter/Spring, etc.).

How - con’t.:
Application deadlines are always 90 days prior to the desired start date to provide sufficient time for the Selection Committee to process, evaluate and select the final candidates for each ‘class.’

Applicants for the Veterans Congressional Internship Program should also include a summary of their military experience: branch of service, rank, length of service, military training and special expertise, awards and decorations, and other noteworthy achievements.

The Vision Behind The Veterans Internships

The vision for this program began when Rear Admiral (Ret.) James J. Carey attended several Wounded Warrior dinners in Washington, DC at which he had the opportunity to talk with many wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. While most seemed to be responding well to treatment for their wounds and injuries, he sensed a general anxiety among many concerning their future options once they left active duty, and how their military qualifications and experience would fit with their need for civilian employment and pursuit of the same ‘quality of life’ expectations held before their military service and combat injuries.

It seemed logical to the admiral to apply their military knowledge and experience to career service as staff members for the U.S. Congress, where there has been a gradual decline of the number of veterans with personal military service experience among serving Members of Congress. The greatest employment barrier, however, for these veterans to overcome was their lack of knowledge of the legislative process, the federal budget process, and their lack of Congressional Staff experience - a prerequisite requirement for employment on many Congressional Office Staffs and Committees.

Funded internships for veterans, based on and administered by the highly successful Washington Scholars program was the obvious solution.