



For Immediate Release
March 18, 2006

In accordance with guidelines set forth by the Grant Committee of the Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund™ we are pleased to announce the recipients of the following College Grant Awards made during the 4th quarter of 2005:



Cornell Gilmore, Jr. - Stafford, VA.
Proud son of Army Command Sgt. Major Cornell W. Gilmore I
Hometown: Baltimore, MD
Award: \$5,000.00

Dawnita Gilmore - Stafford, VA
Proud daughter of Army Command Sgt. Major Cornell W. Gilmore I
Award: \$5,000.00

SGM Gilmore I was killed in action when a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter went down on November 7, 2003 in Tikrit, Iraq. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Cornell W. Gilmore, 45, had been in Iraq just five days, for what amounted to a routine inspection tour. He was supposed to be gone a week. The youngest of 12 children who grew up in Baltimore, he had become the highest-ranking enlisted man and the highest-ranking African American in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps. But he had vowed that when he retired in a few years, he was going to be a Wal-Mart greeter. When Gilmore headed to Iraq, he was determined to boost the morale of soldiers in harm's way by showing them how much they were appreciated. As a legal specialist for the Judge Advocate General's Office, Gilmore was in charge of about 3,000 paralegals, both active duty and reserve. He oversaw training and served as a support system for soldiers joining the JAG Corps. He died at the age of 45 and leaves behind his wife, Donna and two college-age children, Cornell, Jr. and Dawnita. SGM Gilmore I was born in Baltimore and grew up in the city's Cherry Hill area. He graduated from the University of Maryland in Baltimore and entered the military in 1981. An involved father, Gilmore coached youth teams in every sport. Church was important. As a skilled pianist, drummer, bass player and singer, he always took the lead in worship services, and for a time, he and the children formed a gospel group called G-3, which stood for both Gilmore 3 and God's 3. Donna and Cornell also had what they called "a marriage ministry," teaching a course on improving relationships to other couples. Those who knew him say Gilmore was a man tall in stature and vast in humility, known for his thousand-watt smile and favorite phrases -- especially his warm salutation: "Greetings. How are you?" He had other phrases he liked to use, so closely identified with him that they were included on the back cover of his funeral program: "Come on, team!" "I got you covered." And his exit line, "Go forth -- and have a nice day." *From the Washington Post*



Cristie Horton, proud wife of Staff Sgt. Jeremy Horton

Hometown: Erie, PA

Award: \$5,000.00

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Horton Potts was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division; Baumholder, Germany.

He was killed when his vehicle was ambushed by a car bomb near Iskandariya, Iraq, on May 21, 2004, he was 24 years old. Cristie and Jeremy had plans to earn their college degrees and now that she is alone, she is still pursuing their goal for herself and in memory of Jeremy. One her instructors wrote: "As a writing teacher, I learn a lot about my students through their personal essays and am often privileged to read their private thoughts. I know from Cristie's papers that family is very important to her, and that her husband's death in Iraq has been a constant force in her life this past year. I remember one paper in

particular where she wrote about the plans that she and her husband had when he finished his time in the military, plans that included both of them going to college. Now, Cristie has a chance to make those plans come true. On your website, I see that one of your goals is that you are "...determined to help make the last wishes of those lost to the casualty of war possible..." I believe that Jeremy's wish would be fulfilled through Cristie, and I urge you to consider her for your College Grant. "Was he special?" asked Horton's uncle, Richard Wittenburg. "No, not really. He was every wife's husband, every parent's son, every sibling's brother." Horton initially enlisted because he wanted to save money for college. But, Wittenburg said, Horton discovered that he loved being in the military, risks and all. Difficult, demanding assignments appealed to him the same way that fast cars and skydiving did, Wittenburg said. SSG Horton originally served with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. He shifted to the 1st Armored Division and spent about 15 months in Iraq. Tom Horton, another uncle, said Jeremy had a philosophical side that enabled him not to worry about life in a war zone. "He believed the journey was more important than the destination, even if you didn't get where you planned to go," Tom Horton said. In addition to his wife, SSG Horton is survived by his father, Tim Horton, his mother, Gretchen Miller, and his brother, Jason Horton.

As reported by: By Milan Simonich, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Valerie Thompson, proud wife of Sgt. Anthony O. Thompson

Hometown: Orangeburg, SC

Award: \$2,000.00

Sgt. Anthony Orlando Thompson was killed when his unit was ambushed with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in Tikrit, Iraq, on September 18, 2003. He was served with Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division based out of Ft. Hood, Texas. Sgt. Thompson was 26 years old. Sgt. Thompson was a faithful friend to all who knew him, said his sister, Mary Ellen Bell. "He was a husband, a father, a son, a brother, a soldier and a good friend," Bell said. The Branchville native was one of five children, but known as the "little baby," Bell said. He played football and basketball at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School before graduating in 1995. He joined the Army on Nov. 7, 1996. Sgt. Thompson married his high

school sweetheart, Valerie Green. They have a 5 year old son, Jaykwon Thompson.



Heather Wetherbee, proud wife of 1st Lt. Alexander E. Wetherbee
Hometown: Fairfax, VA
Award: \$1,000.00

1st Lt. Alexander E. Wetherbee died of injuries received from enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, on September 12, 2004. First Lt. Alexander E. Wetherbee, an assault amphibious vehicle officer, was serving his second deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since joining the Marine Corps on Dec. 22, 2001. He was assigned to the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton in California. He was 27 years old. While in college, he attended recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, where he was platoon honorman and was promoted meritoriously to lance corporal. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Program (Marine Option) after his graduation from the University of Idaho. Wetherbee was a "go-for-it guy" who enjoying rock and ice climbing, kayaking and backpacking. When not on military training during summers at college, he worked as an instructor for Outward Bound. "He did things he believed in," said Mike Beiser, coordinator of outdoor programs at the University of Idaho. "Alex is not the kind of person that would be in the back or the middle; he would be in the front." He was stationed at Camp Pendleton. Described as a 6-foot-4-inch "stringy guy," Wetherbee was born into a Foreign Service family and lived in Ethiopia, India, Norway and Pakistan before graduating from high school in Virginia. He received a degree in forest resources in 2001 from the University of Idaho, where he was active in the forest-fire control program and was featured in an instructional climbing video. He was on a second deployment to Iraq.

These awards totaling \$18,000.00 were made possible through donations received by the public, charity events held by other organizations and businesses and fundraisers held by the Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund. TM

We thank all who contribute to our efforts to help families of our U.S. Military. To the families of our brave, one of the most valuable and precious things that we have been guaranteed is the "gift" of freedom and we have your service member to thank for that. We also thank you for all your sacrifices at home, you are heroes to us all. For further information, please contact us at info@cfsrf.org or visit our website at: www.cfsrf.org