

‘The Opportunity to Shoot for the Stars’

For one Air Force veteran, a VFW scholarship will help her continue her work at the United States Air Force Academy

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Air Force veteran Kristin Chaney, 39, resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with her five children, Lily, Remi, Joona, Charlotte and Matilda. During her nine years in the military, she served in Arkansas, Colorado, Texas and Honduras while working in a medical admin troop and in the command-and-control career field.

Chaney’s parents served in the Air Force and inspired her to be part of something bigger than herself.

“I was a senior in high school when 9/11 happened,” she said. “My father was stationed at Fort Bliss, and the reality of things hit home.”

Chaney learned about the VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” through an internet search for veteran-related awards. She is the first in her family to receive a master’s degree and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in educational leadership, research and policy at the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs. Chaney thanks the VFW for believing in the power of higher education.

“Your investment in my education is not just a financial contribution - it’s a vote of confidence in my potential and recognition of the importance of higher education in shaping the future,” she said.

Chaney loves being a teacher and hopes to continue her work at the United States Air Force Academy. As someone who attended college on the GI Bill, Chaney wants to inspire her own children and students to go after their educational dreams and help other educators create positive learning experiences in their classrooms.

“This scholarship provides me the opportunity to shoot for the stars,” Chaney said. “From an enlisted airman to a Ph.D. student, I am humbled and so excited!”

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Chaney admits some days are difficult as an adult learner, but she encourages veterans to not give up. She insists that their military experience, dedication, commitment and service to others has prepared them for higher education and that they are not alone.

“Entering the world of higher education as an adult can be daunting. However, everything that has brought you to this point has prepared you to come out on the other side stronger,” Chaney said.

She is deeply honored to be selected as a recipient and plans to represent the values of the VFW through her future endeavors.

“This scholarship not only helps alleviate the financial burden of pursuing higher education, but also serves as validation of the commitment I’ve made in service to my country,” Chaney said. “Thank you once again for your generosity and support!”

[Learn more](#) about the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship."