

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION PROGRAM

Phillip Coon Scholarship

Scholarship Description

Raised in Okemah, OK, Phillip Coon is of the Alligator Clan and Nuyaka Tribal Town. Coon attended Haskell Institute with his late wife, Helen. He currently lives in Sapulpa, OK which located in northeastern Oklahoma. As a young man, Coon joined the US Army during World War II where he served as an infantry machine gunner. In the Philippines, Coon survived a prisoner of war labor camp and the brutal Bataan Death March. During the 65-mile journey, the Japanese military forced tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers to march with little food or water in blazing heat. As many as 11,000 soldiers died along the Bataan Death March, Coon credits his faith in God and the faith of others with helping him to survive. Coon indicated, "We ran out of food, ammunition, and men, but we didn't run out of prayer." In 2013, Coon received the Prisoner of War Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge from retired Major General Rita Aragon, Oklahoma's Secretary of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Amount of Scholarship Award

\$1,000.00

Purpose and Application of Funds

The purpose of this scholarship is to financially assist veterans who might not otherwise have the financial means to further their education. This scholarship award can be utilized to pay for the *required* cost of tuition, fees, books, tools, supplies, testing or examination fees, transportation, or other incidental required cost related to the cost of the post-secondary education institution. This scholarship is to be awarded to a veteran who is attending an institution of higher education, technical school, or vocational trade school.

Eligibility Guidelines

1. Must be an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
2. Must be a veteran currently attending an institution of higher education or enrolled as a first-time entering student.
3. Must demonstrate financial need.
4. Must agree to authorize the Scholarship Foundation Program to publicize the scholarship award if selected.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Scholarship Foundation Program is a tribal government non-profit program qualified under Section 7871 (a) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. This status is only afforded to federally recognized tribes.

All contributions to the Scholarship Foundation Program are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.