

## **Jiffy Lube Teen Driver Scholarship Essay**

**First Name, Last Name:** Courtney Morgan

**Year in School:** 12

**School Name:** Pine Creek High School

**State:** Colorado

### **What Drives Me!**

My family has a long tradition of military service, starting with Daniel Morgan, who served in the American Revolutionary War. His descendants, including my great-grandparents, grandparents, father, and cousins, have proudly served in the U.S. Army. My grandmother was an Army nurse and my grandfather was a Dustoff pilot during the Vietnam War. My father also served as an Army Ranger and Infantry Officer and is now a strong advocate for disabled veterans, as he himself is a 100% disabled veteran due to his service to our country.

I grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, a city with a rich military culture. One of my summer jobs was at Mission BBQ, a military-themed restaurant where we honored veterans daily. I had the chance to display a black-and-white photo of my great-grandmother, Lorraine Morgan, who served as a nurse during WWII, along with an Army Ranger coin my father had donated. Every time I passed that display, I was reminded of my family's sacrifices for my freedom. The opportunities I have, especially personal safety and access to education are privileges I do not take lightly.

My father's cousin graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and is currently deployed as an Army helicopter pilot, while his wife serves as an Army PR officer. They are expecting their first child, and she plans to continue serving, something that would not have been possible when my grandmother served in Vietnam. At that time, women in the Army were not allowed to serve and be mothers. This limitation still resonates with my grandmother, who had to leave the Army when she became pregnant with my aunt. Her stories continue to shape who I am, and I hope to give voice to those memories before they fade away. That is what drives me!

I intend to use this scholarship to help fund my college education (double major in Film/TV Production and Theatre Production). While many states offer tuition waivers/discounts for dependents of disabled veterans, Colorado does not. I have a twin brother who will also be in college next year, so the financial strain on my family will be great. While there might not be an obvious overlap between film/theatre and the military, I intend to use my degree to bring my connection to the military into the industry. Film and theater are unique mediums that bring storytelling to the forefront of the art form, and I believe the countless untold stories of America's female servicemembers throughout history are worthy of telling and can start important conversations that will continue to be relevant today and for generations to come. I believe that my connection to these stories, going back several generations, makes me uniquely positioned to tell them. I owe them so much and believe this is one way that I can truly say, "Thank you for your service."