



Vernon J. Baker Educators' Scholarship

Vernon J. Baker a CHS graduate entered the Army in June of 1941, six months prior to the U.S. entry into World War II. On the morning of April 5th, Baker participated in an attack on the German stronghold of Castle Aghinolfi. During the assault Baker led his heavy weapons platoon through German Army defenses to within sight of the castle, personally destroying a machine gun position, two observation posts, two bunkers, and a network of German telephone lines along the way. It was for these and other actions, including leading a battalion to advance under heavy fire, that he was later awarded the Medal of Honor.

At the time, no Medals of Honor had been awarded to the black American soldiers who served in World War II. On January 13, 1997, President Bill Clinton awarded the Medal of Honor to seven of the World War II veterans; Baker was the only living recipient of the medal at the time.”

The Baker Scholarship fund was established by CHS faculty in the 1990's for the purpose of financially assisting outstanding CHS graduates in pursuit of their post-secondary education.

The Vernon J. Baker Scholarship will be awarded to a Clarinda High School graduating senior (or seniors) planning to pursue a degree in higher education at an accredited college or university.

The following guidelines will be used in making the scholarship selection:

1. Preference will be given to students pursuing continued study at any level with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and to those who plan to pursue a degree in higher education at an accredited college or university. The applicant must show evidence of service to the school and community through involvement in several activities.
2. The Clarinda Foundation shall disburse the scholarship grant in one payment before the fall semester to a college or university indicated by the recipient.

3. The selection committee shall consist of four individuals: 1) one individual named by the Clarinda Foundation (who shall serve as chair of the committee); 2) the Clarinda High School Guidance Counselor; 3) two representatives of the CHS faculty. No member of the selection committee shall vote on an applicant who is a relative within the third degree of consanguinity.
4. The selection committee reserves the right to not award the scholarship should they determine that no applicant is worthy.
5. The application must be typed or computer generated and shall include an essay addressing the following:
 - a. College the graduate plans to attend or those that they are considering.
 - b. The intended major of the graduate and why they have chosen this as their major.
 - c. The graduate's contributions to their high school and the community.
 - d. Any work history the graduate may have.
 - e. The graduate's extracurricular activities.
6. The scholarship shall be awarded without regard to race, color, creed, gender, nationality, origin or physical handicap.