

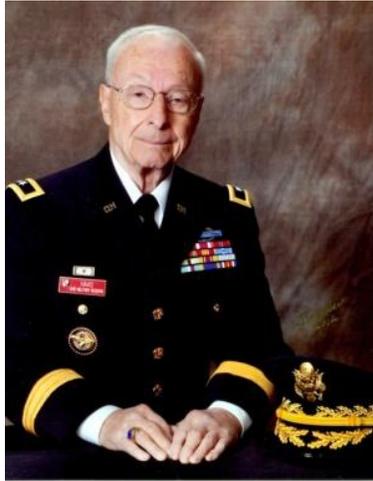
American Legion Massillon Post 221
2026 Annual Robert Haas Memorial Scholarship

(Named in memory of General Robert Haas, long time member and friend of Post 221 and other veterans organizations)

1. Massillon American Legion Post 221 will offer a maximum of two (2) \$2500.00 Scholarships in 2026.
2. Applications will be available March 1st, 2026, and may be picked up at the Post 221 tavern or downloaded from the Post 221 web site (americanlegion221.org).
3. **Eligibility:** Scholarship recipients must be the natural, legally adopted child, step child or grandchild of a member in good standing of Massillon American Legion Post 221, or the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 221. Member in good standing includes a deceased parent or grandparent who was a member in good standing at the time of his or her death. Applicants must have completed at least their junior year in high school.
4. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, and the recipients will be chosen by a Scholarship Committee appointed by the Post Commander.
5. The committee will consider academic achievement, character and service in the selection of the recipients.
6. Applications that are incomplete, do not conform to directions or are received after the deadline will NOT be considered.
7. The decision of the selection committee is final, and not subject to appeal.
8. Completed applications must be RECEIVED by the Post no later than April 17th, 2026.

Drop off completed application and supporting documents to Post 221, or mail to:

American Legion Post 221
Attn: Scholarship
PO Box 757
Massillon, OH 44648



Robert D. Haas was born March 9, 1928, and graduated from Strasburg High in 1946. On June 12, 1946, he raised his hand to serve his country in the United States Army. He was assigned to a detachment of high-frequency radio transmission station from the Pentagon to Fort Monroe, VA.

After this enlistment, he attended the University of Akron and enrolled in the ROTC program. He graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. On December 2, 1951, he was called from inactive duty to active duty and was deployed to Korea where he commanded a 60-man infantry platoon on the Main Line of Resistance. On July 6, 1953, he was honorably discharged with the rank of 1st Lieutenant and awarded the National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star); United Nations Korean Service Medal; Republic of Korea War Service Medal; Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

On January 1, 1957, he joined the US Army Reserves, serving as commander of the 308th Engineer Battalion. In 1966 he was promoted to Major, where he served as Liaison Officer at West Point Military Academy. One of his biggest thrills came when three Massillon boys were admitted to the academy in the same year. In 1975 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. In 1979 (due to age restrictions) he retired Regular Army and USAR.

Not being one to rest after retirement, in 1983 he joined the Ohio Military Reserves. The State of Ohio Adjutant General's Department appointed him Commander (OHMR) on September 23, 1993. On January 29, 1996, Bob received an Honorable Retirement from the Ohio Military Reserve at the rank of Major General.

After returning to the civilian sector in 1954, he took on the adventure of a 7th grade teacher and coach with the Strasburg Schools. Shortly thereafter, he began teaching Algebra in Massillon at Jones Junior High School and coached Football, Basketball, and Track. In 1959, he was hired as Principal for Whittier School. He would gather students and staff at the flagpole in the mornings before school to render respect to our county and lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Teaching was a labor of love for Bob.

He cared about the well-being of his students and athletes. They knew they could go to him with problems or concerns, and he would listen and counsel or lend a helping hand. In 1974 he was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Massillon City Schools where he served until 1985.

Bob was very involved in the community and one of his proudest moments was when he assisted Mayor Catazaro-Perry in helping Massillon become a Purple Heart City. He served ten years on the Board of Directors for the Stark County Veterans Service Commission, where he passionately served with dedication to the veterans and their families until his retirement on January 14, 2018.

Bob led his life and taught his family by example to have integrity, to work hard, and to be optimistic, to give back, and to be grateful for all blessings.

Two very proud highlights in his military career were his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, and his invitation as one of 12 military and Korean Veterans to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War in Korea.

Bob was a long time and very valued member of American Legion Post 221 as well as other local veteran groups. He was extremely active in service to fellow veterans, and respected by all he came into contact with. Those of us who had the honor to know him will always miss him.

**Massillon American Legion Post 221
2026 Scholarship Application**

Name: _____ Home phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Name & relation of Post 221 member: _____ Card # _____

Parents: Father _____ Mother _____

Address if different from above: _____

Have you received any previous scholarship assistance from Post 221? _____ Yes _____ No

Current School: _____ Grade: _____ GPA: _____

(submit copy of most recent transcript or grade report)

College or other higher education institution for which scholarship is desired:

_____ Major _____

Extra-curricular activities or honors: _____

List current or prior employment or volunteer activities:

Employer or organization

Dates (approximate)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(If extra space is needed, use blank area at bottom of page 3, or submit separate page)

Briefly describe your educational and career goals: _____

Essay: On a separate sheet of paper, submit a 300- 500 word essay on the following topic: How pursuing and achieving my educational goals will contribute to my ability to be a better citizen.

Reference letters: Letters of reference are not required, but will be used in evaluating applications if submitted. Reference letters must be from persons not related to you, and should explain how you are known to the writer along with any information they wish to impart concerning your abilities or character. Do not submit more than three reference letters.

Additional Information: Use space below to add any information that doesn't fit elsewhere on this application.

Certification

By signing this application I certify that all information is true and correct, and that all work submitted was done by me.

Applicant signature

Date
