

## Biography of Edward O. Nesheim

My dad, Edward Nesheim, lived from April 20, 1920 to June 15, 2000. He attended many American Legion activities. Serving in World War II made a big impact on his life. I'd like to tell you about a few of his experiences.

Do you remember the day you graduated from high school? For him it was the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1940. The day they had graduation, the Minot Daily News had double line, double-sized headlines that said "British Evacuate Dunkirk!"

Edward had grown up on the homestead of his parents Nels and Gunhild (Berge) Nesheim, immigrants from Norway. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. He attended country school and graduated from Van Hook, ND High School where he enjoyed playing basketball. He attended what is now North Dakota State University for one year and participated in ROTC. Ed was drafted into the Army in November of 1941. After Fort Snelling and Aberdeen Proving Grounds, he requested to be a cook, but the Army assigned him to be a drill sergeant and welder. Dad would have been a good cook because I remember watching him make lefse, whole wheat bread and homemade ice cream.

From June to December of 1942, Ed was one of 2500 GI's assigned to the Army War Show. The Army War Show traveled to 12 cities in the eastern United States. He worked with maintenance repairs for 120 vehicles. About 100,000 people attended each show. Tickets were 55 cents. Two million dollars were raised for the Army Emergency Relief Fund.

After that it was Officer Candidate School and he graduated as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in April 1943. He trained to load bombs for B-17's at Ephrada Air Base in Washington state and B-24's in Harvard, Nebraska. He visited his parents before he was shipped overseas. Psalm 91 meant a lot to my dad.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge  
The Most high your habitation, no evil shall befall your tent.  
No scourge came near your tent.  
You will not fear the terror of the night  
Nor the arrow that fly by day.  
A thousand may fall at your side,  
Ten thousand at your right hand.  
I will protect him, because he knows my name.  
When he calls to me, I will answer him.  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will rescue him and honor him.  
With long life I will satisfy him.  
And he will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Ed was one of the 645 GI's in hole number 3 on a liberty ship. Bombs and ammunition were in holds 1, 2, and 4. They spent 29 days going about 12 miles an hour in a convoy of 245 ships. He got boiled potatoes with jackets on and spam twice a day. British caveats accompanied the convoy and dropped depth charges on enemy submarines. From the hold of the ship, the men could hear "click, boom, click, boom". The convoy was attacked by air, bright as day at 4 am. He traveled in a troop train to his assignment in Italy. The train came under bomb attack about midnight. The soldiers had to get out, crawl in the grass and disperse.

His assignment in Italy was on a farm that was converted into an 824<sup>th</sup> Squadron. The men loaded bombs onto 14 B-24's everyday. It seemed endless.

In November of 1943 he got sent to the front lines with the 175<sup>th</sup> Artillery. I remember him telling the story of how he got promoted to Captain. Part of his job was to keep the jeeps and trucks running. Because of the wet weather, mud would get in the valve stems of the tires and the vehicle couldn't be used. From the scrap wood that the bombs came in he built a garage so the vehicles could be maintained better. When Major General Twining saw this he promoted him to Captain and Ed was awarded the Bronze Star.

After the Germans surrendered in Italy, Ed was in Casablanca waiting for his next assignment. All the other guys got sent back to the states on their way to the Pacific. But he got orders to go to the China, Burma, India Theater. While he was in India, he purchased a ruby that later became my mother's engagement ring. Ed was in Burma at the 4 mile high Camp Kobo, a jungle indoctrination training camp. Everything came in and out by plane. When he was later assigned to ship out he missed the plane because he had gone to get some chocolate mile. The plane he missed went down and crashed.

He made it home for Christmas eve 1945. He said it was absolutely a dream and a prayer come true to come home from World War II. He was honorably discharged as a Captain on March 6, 1946.

Through the GI Bill, he graduated from Creighton (Neb) University School of Dentistry in 1951. He earned an award for making a fine gold crown. Ed had a dental practice in Sharon, ND and in Mayville until 1982. He completed training in massage therapy and promoted holistic health. He was involved in farming near Sharon from 1955 – 1979. Politics was another interest of his.

Ed married Eunice May Solberg on June 23, 1946 in Cooperstown, ND. They had four children: Tessa, Sonja, Edward Carl and Eric. Ed and Eunice enjoyed dancing. He was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Mayville Lutheran Church.

From my dad I learned generosity, compassion, loyalty and to work hard. He provided a safe and secure home for his family.

Our family has established this scholarship because my dad wanted to be remembered. He was one of many, many Americans who served our country and deserve to be honored.

God Bless America!

Written by Sonja (Nesheim) Adahl

June 21, 2008

Presented at the North Dakota Legion Convention in Minot

**Edward O. Nesheim Memorial Scholarship**  
**The American Legion Foundation, Department of North Dakota**  
**PO Box 5057, West Fargo, ND 58078**

The Edward O. Nesheim Memorial Scholarship was created by his daughter, Sonja Adahl, in 2008 to honor the memory of her late father. Information about Edward O. Nesheim is available from The American Legion Foundation, Department of North Dakota at the above address, or on line at [NDLegion.org](http://NDLegion.org).

The Scholarship may be used at any post secondary institution of higher education in North Dakota granting Associate or higher degrees. Application forms are available from the above address in West Fargo and, when completed, must be returned to the same. Application deadline is April 1 of the year the scholarship is to be awarded. Recipients of the Nesheim Scholarship may apply for renewal upon satisfactory completion of the previous academic year with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

**Eligibility requirements:**

1. Must be a legal resident of North Dakota and a direct descendent (child, grandchild or great-grandchild) of a U.S. veteran who served honorably. Proof of service and lineage are required.
2. Must have maintained a secondary school GPA of 2.75 or higher.
3. Must be pursuing a degree in some phase of Agriculture, Human Nutrition, or Medicine (Medical Dr, PA, Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, Pharmacy or Chiropractic).
4. Must be a High School senior or a previous Nesheim Scholarship recipient now attending an institution of higher education.

**Application:**

The applicant must

- a. Submit the completed application form
- b. Include and attach an original essay (500 to 750 words, typed, double spaced, 12 pt font with 1" margins) to address the following issues
  1. What are your educational and career goals?
  2. How do you plan to accomplish those goals and what part will your education play in attaining those goals?
  3. Where do you plan to continue your education and why did you choose that institution?
  4. Briefly discuss your secondary education (coursework, extracurricular activities, sports, jobs, volunteerism, etc) and how you feel they may or may not have helped you prepare for your choice of college, your life and your career.
- c. Provide proof of acceptance into a post secondary institution in North Dakota that grants Associate or higher degrees
- d. Include a high school transcript
- e. Include 3 letters of reference, all from non-family members, and one of which must be from a U.S. veteran who served honorably
- f. Provide proof of financial need from the educational institution to be attended

**Notification:**

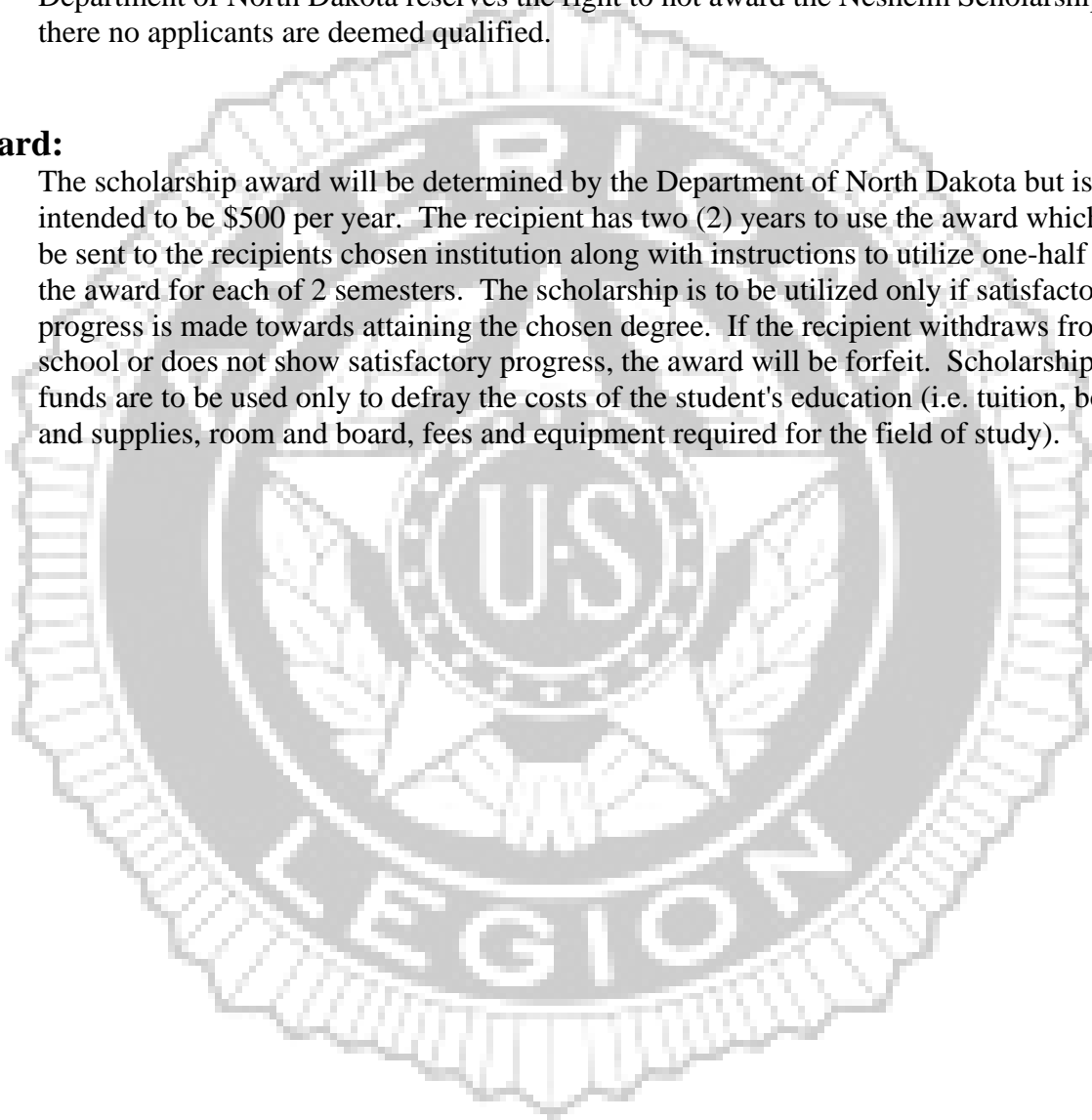
The recipient(s) of the Nesheim Memorial Scholarship will be notified by June 15 or at the June Department Convention in the year in which the scholarship is awarded.

**Selection process:**

The American Legion, department of North Dakota or their designee(s) will consider all applications and select the recipient(s) based on past and evidence of future academic success, recommendations of references and the applicant's original essay. The Department of North Dakota reserves the right to not award the Nesheim Scholarship if there no applicants are deemed qualified.

**Award:**

The scholarship award will be determined by the Department of North Dakota but is intended to be \$500 per year. The recipient has two (2) years to use the award which will be sent to the recipients chosen institution along with instructions to utilize one-half of the award for each of 2 semesters. The scholarship is to be utilized only if satisfactory progress is made towards attaining the chosen degree. If the recipient withdraws from school or does not show satisfactory progress, the award will be forfeit. Scholarship funds are to be used only to defray the costs of the student's education (i.e. tuition, books and supplies, room and board, fees and equipment required for the field of study).



**Edward O. Nesheim Memorial Scholarship - Application Cover**  
**The American Legion – Department of North Dakota**  
**(This portion to be completed by the applicant – see instructions!)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned field of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Institution planning to attend/attending \_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach acceptance notice or current transcript of Educational Institution currently attending as well as proof of need of financial aid)

Name, address and phone number of 3 references we may contact:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In submitting this application, I certify that the information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand and agree that falsification of any information will result in forfeiture of entitlements from the Edward O. Nesheim Memorial Scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature Signature of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Date

**(The below portion is to be completed by a High School Official)**

High School Graduated from: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Attach certified copy of High School transcript)

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Officials Signature Printed name & Title of Official