

Three-time Scholarship Recipient Nears Graduation

VFW scholarship allows young veteran to complete his studies

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John Loveridge never questioned his path. He joined the Army Reserves while he was still in high school.

At just 24, Loveridge has fought in Iraq and worked as a Human Intelligence Collector for



six years.

"In short, I provided Army personnel with information about an enemy force's strengths, weaknesses and potential battle areas," said Loveridge.

When Loveridge returned home to Vancouver, Wash., he ran a 5K with some friends. Crossing the finish line, Loveridge spotted a Sport Clips tent and a flyer on college scholarship opportunities for veterans.

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That same week, Loveridge applied for a VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" and was awarded the maximum amount of \$5,000.

"I'm so thankful for this scholarship," said Loveridge. "It was hard to convey through a scholarship application what kind of a man I am, and I am deeply grateful that you believed in me."

Loveridge is now a full-time student at Washington State University, where he's majoring in Digital Technology and Culture. Now a senior, this is the third scholarship Loveridge has received from the VFW and Sport Clips.

"Without the stress of holding down a full-time job while I'm in school, I've been able to maintain a 3.75 GPA," said Loveridge. "I've also had time to volunteer my time to worthy causes."

Of those worthy causes, Loveridge reestablished his campus' Veterans Club, which he now oversees as President. Loveridge is also volunteering at local veterans organizations to help his fellow veterans.

"I am so grateful for what has been given to me, and I hope to continue to make Sport Clips, the VFW and my family proud," said Loveridge.

With an "amazing new wife" on his arm and a degree nearly under his belt, Loveridge is close to reaching his career-and life-goals.

"I want to build websites for local businesses," said Loveridge. "And I want to have children soon, so I hope to find a job that can offer me some financial security. Thanks to the generosity of people I've never met, I'm almost there."

The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" was created to provide service members and veterans with the financial assistance needed to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. Awarded twice a year, scholarships help cover the cost of tuition and fees. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2016 fall semester. To apply, click [here](#).