

Ossie S. & Thomas F. Blair, Jr. Memorial Scholarship



Purpose

The purpose of the Ossie S. & Thomas F. Blair, Jr. Blair Memorial Scholarship is to provide an annual award to one of the scholarship applicants. The annual award will be given for the sole purpose of paying college expenses. For further information: <http://theblairscholarship.com>.

About the Blairs

Thomas Francis Blair, Jr. was born on July 20, 1903 to Thomas Francis Blair (born August 31, 1865) and Catherine Collins Blair (born July 30, 1873). He was the 7th child of 12 children. His father and grandfather William Robert Blair (born about 1828 in Ireland and immigrated to the United States sometime before 1854) built railroads from northern Michigan, through what was, at that time, still called Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). His grandfather started out as a laborer building railroads but formed his own railroad construction company during the railroad boom. They continued south to Texas where Tom was born in Amarillo. His grandfather died in approximately 1902 and was buried in Indian Territory.

After his grandfather's death, Tom's father and grandmother, Elizabeth Moore (born in Ireland about 1837) completed, according to some Blair family members, a construction contract building a railroad associated with the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. They then headed eastward until his father decided they had moved enough and built enough railroads. They built their last tracks in eastern North Carolina. They put down roots and, given the advent of the automobile, started building roads in Granville County, NC. Tom, Jr.'s father needed him to help run a construction crew - thus his entry into the road construction business.

Ossie Pearl Southern was born on November 9, 1906 in Lynchburg, VA to Cornelius Osborne Southern and Mary Mitchell Southern.

Mary died very early in Ossie's life, perhaps in 1908. Cornelius then married Mary Etta Nelson. Ossie was destined to be an only child.

Tom and Ossie met when Tom's father was building a road in North Carolina and Ossie's mother was in charge of the cooks and her father was in charge of the horses and mules for Tom's father's construction company. Because religion was of great importance in their lives, with Tom being Catholic and Ossie being Baptist, concessions had to be made before their eventual marriage. They were wed in Hendersonville, NC on April 18, 1922. The young couple started their family on September 12, 1923. Over the following years, their family grew to number 13 children with the last one being born on December 14, 1950.

Tom and Ossie moved to Suffolk, VA in 1932. As much as they loved and cared for their children, there was another tremendous compulsion — education! While they were both very intelligent, Tom having created his own form of calculus to use in his construction business, and Ossie having learned a good bit of Spanish, French, Latin, History, Math, etc., from helping their children with their school work, they had an urgency for their children to receive a formal education. First came George Mason, then Thomas Jefferson, and finally Suffolk High School. As busy as Tom and Ossie were, they always had time to help every one of their children with their studies.

The Ossie S. & Thomas F. Blair, Jr. Memorial Scholarship has been established by some of their loving and forever-thankful children to honor them. What better way to do that than by having a scholarship in their names to give worthy individuals a helping hand towards their higher education.

Award Criteria

To be eligible to receive the Ossie S. & Thomas F. Blair, Jr. Blair Memorial Scholarship, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Have financial need
- Have participated in religious, community or civic activities or in youth and/or school programs
- Exhibit and be of strong moral character
- Each scholarship applicant must also be, at the time of the award, a current resident of the City of Suffolk and either:
 - A graduating senior at one of the public or private high schools located in the City of Suffolk, or a senior in an accredited home school program conducted in Suffolk, OR....
 - A former graduate of one of the public or private high schools located in the City of Suffolk or a former senior in an accredited home school program conducted in Suffolk who is then currently enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university in the United States



106 W. FINNEY AVENUE
SUFFOLK, VA 23434
(757) 923-9090

Ossie S. & Thomas F. Blair, Jr. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

I. Personal

A. Your Full Name:

B. Your Address:

C. Parent/Guardian Name(s):

D. Parent/Guardian Address(es):

E. Your Email Address:

F. Your Telephone Number:

II. Eligibility

A. Are you currently a resident of the City of Suffolk? Yes _____ No _____

B. Do you currently attend a public or private high school located in the City of Suffolk?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which one?

C. Are you a graduate of a public or private high school located in the City of Suffolk?
Yes _____ No _____

If so, identify the school or home-school program from which you graduated and the year of your graduation.

D. Are you currently enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university in the U.S.?
Yes _____ No _____

If so, identify the college or university and your class (freshman, sophomore, etc.)

E. If you are not yet in college, have you been accepted for enrollment in the next academic year in an accredited college or university in the U.S.?
Yes _____ No _____

If yes, identify the college or university and state whether you currently intend to enroll at such institution.

III. Financial Need

- A. One of the criteria for the award of this scholarship is financial need. Have you completed the FAFSA application for Federal Student Aid? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If the above answer is yes, please attach a copy of your FAFSA.

If you have received your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on your Student Aid Report (SAR), please attach a copy.

Please explain briefly your financial need for this scholarship. Attach any documentation that may further explain your financial need for this scholarship.

- B. Please check **one** of the following categories below to indicate total family income:
☐ Under \$30,000 ☐ \$30,000 - \$40,000 ☐ \$40,000 - \$50,000 ☐ Over \$50,000

- C. If you know of any scholarships that you will be receiving, please list the scholarship and the amount being received.

Please email wwinslow@suffolkfoundation.org any scholarships received after you have made application for the Blair Scholarship.

IV. Academic Performance

- A. State your overall Grade Point Average (GPA) _____.
- B. State your highest SAT scores Verbal _____ Math _____ Writing _____, and/or composite ACT scores _____.
- C. State your class rank # _____ out of _____ (#) students in the graduating class.
- D. State any academic honors/awards you have received. _____

V. Extracurricular Activities

- A. Have you participated in any of the following activities?

1. Community Service Yes ____ No ____

Describe: Years participated: ____

2. Religious Activities Yes ____ No ____

Describe: Years participated: ____

3. Civic Activities Yes ____ No ____

Describe: _____ Years participated: ____

4. Any Youth Programs in the City of Suffolk Yes ____ No ____

Describe: _____ Years participated: ____

5. Any school programs at a college or university Yes ____ No ____

Describe: _____ Years participated: ____

B. List all extracurricular activities not specified above in which you have participated in the last two years.

VI. Recommendations/Transcript

- A. Please provide a **signed recommendation** from a principal, teacher or other school official.
- B. Please provide a **signed recommendation** from another adult who is NOT a member of your family.
- C. Include an **official transcript** (school seal, embossed/official signature) with your application.
- D. Please feel free to **attach additional documentation** when addressing requested information.

VII. Certification

I certify that the information provided in this Application is correct.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

APPLICANT'S NAME (PRINT)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY AND ZIP CODE

The application must be received in the Suffolk Foundation office at 106 West Finney Avenue, Suffolk, VA 23434 on or before noon on the last work day in March. Therefore, it will be necessary, if mailing the application, to have the application in the mail well in advance of the last March business day. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Please use binder clips or paper clips; do not staple your application and attachments. Please submit your application and attachments (printed on one-side only) in the following order:

- *Application*
- *Letter of Recommendation from principal, teacher, or other school official*
- *Letter of Recommendation from another adult*
- *FAFSA/Expected Family Contribution (EFC)*
- *Official Transcript*
- *Any additional documentation*