



GLORIA SESSIONS VENTRESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Gloria Sessions Ventress, the daughter of Mary and Lewe Sessions, was born and raised in Enterprise, Alabama. She attended the local public schools and went on to graduate from the University of Alabama with a degree in education. She taught in the Enterprise school system. Gloria later left the area to focus on raising her family, but she returned to Enterprise in 1979, where she lived for the rest of her life. A devoted member of First Baptist Church throughout her youth and in her later years, Gloria had a strong passion for the education of young people in her community, and the teachers who educated them. She shared this interest with her father, Lewe, who served for many years on the Enterprise School Board.

In memory of Gloria Sessions Ventress, her children have endowed a scholarship through the Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation, Inc. The Gloria Sessions Ventress Memorial Scholarship, funded by an endowment of approximately \$100,000, is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior residing in Enterprise, Alabama, who will be attending a four-year college. The Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation, upon recommendation of a committee selected by the Foundation Chairman, will oversee the awarding of this scholarship subject to the following agreements:

1. The Gloria Sessions Ventress Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded annually to a graduating high school senior who is a full-time resident of Enterprise, Alabama, and will be pursuing further education at a four-year college, provided sufficient funds are available. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by the interest earned during the previous tax year, which has historically averaged between \$3,000 - \$4,000. *The annual dollar amount will be provided to the Enterprise High School Guidance Counselor on a year-to-year basis.
2. Gloria Sessions Ventress was an educator with a keen interest in national and international affairs. While not being pre-requisites to receiving the scholarship, the following criteria will be specially considered: **(a) students whose parents are educators; and/or (b) students that have a background and/or special interest in national/international affairs; and/or (c) students who are "Hearst Foundation" qualifiers.**
3. The Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation Board shall have final authority on the scholarship award but shall specially consider the recommendation of the Gloria Sessions Ventress Memorial Committee which shall be made up of the following three individuals: **(a) Bill Ventress (as long as Bill is alive and willing to serve, he shall be a member emeritus on the committee). If Bill Ventress is unable or unwilling to serve, then the committee shall include: a member of the Ventress family, (i.e. either one of Mr. Ventress' two sisters or any one of their heirs at law and next of kin of Bill Ventress or his two sisters); (b) The Chairman of the Foundation Board; and (c) a person mutually agreed upon by the Chairman of the Foundation Board and Bill Ventress (or if Bill Ventress is unable or unwilling to serve, any one of his sisters or any one of their heirs if the sisters are unable or unwilling to so serve). The Recording Secretary shall serve with no vote if so desired by the committee.**
4. The Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation shall have final authority as to how to invest and manage the Gloria Sessions Ventress Memorial Scholarship endowment but shall receive and review the recommendations of Bill Ventress, as often as Bill Ventress desires, to prove the same to the Board.
5. The Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation adopts the attached form as the application form for interested students.



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APPLICATION SUMMARY:

- **Objective:** To recognize a graduating senior at an Enterprise high school in academics and community involvement and to honor the memory of Gloria Sessions Ventress.
- **Description:** A cash scholarship to be applied toward tuition and books.
- **Funding:** The Gloria Sessions Ventress Memorial Scholarship is supported by a private contribution from the Ventress family to the Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation.
- **Scholarship Selection:** The recipient of the scholarship will be selected by the Foundation Board of Directors upon recommendation from a panel of representatives to be determined by the Foundation.
- **Notification:** All applicants will be notified of the final selection prior to the Enterprise High School Honors Program in May of each year. The scholarship money will be awarded once the winner is selected and has been accepted to a four-year college of the student's choice. The check will be made payable to the college and deposited into the student's account with the college Bursar's Office.

QUALIFICATIONS/ELIGIBILITY:

1. Must be a graduating Enterprise High School Senior, in good standing, who plans to attend a four-year college or university.
2. Must have maintained a "B" average or higher. GPA average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale).
3. Must be a full-time resident of Enterprise, Alabama.
4. Has demonstrated leadership abilities through community involvement and/or other extracurricular activities.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT:

Students are required to complete and submit application forms available at the Enterprise High School Guidance Counselors' Office along with all required documentation. A complete application packet must be received or post-marked by **March 16, 2026**.

Mail to: Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation, Inc, P.O. Box 310577, Enterprise, Alabama 36331

Deliver to: 553 Glover Ave, Enterprise, AL 36330

Please submit your application packet in the order below:

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

1. **Completed application** - Applications must be typed or completed with the use of blue/black ink. Applications must be neat and legible.
2. **Official High School Transcript(s)** – An official copy of the applicant's high school transcript provided by the high school staff in a sealed envelope (**for all high schools attended*) must be included with the application packet.
3. **Letters of Recommendation** – Each application packet should include two (2) sealed letters of recommendation (LOR). One letter should come from the principal, teacher or counselor. The second letter should come from someone that can attest to your character, abilities and qualifications. Each LOR should include the reference's name, contact information, and information that describes how long they have known the applicant and in what capacity.
4. **Personal Summary Essay:** Each applicant must include a brief essay describing his or her planned undergraduate study. This essay should include what you plan to study, where you plan to study, and how this scholarship will help you achieve your future career goals.
5. **Current Photo** – A high school senior photo or current photo in color on photo paper with the student's name on the backside of the photo is required.



**GLORIA SESSIONS VENTRESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION**

PERSONAL INFORMATION		
FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	MIDDLE NAME OR INITIAL:
MAILING ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
TELEPHONE #	EMAIL:	
APPLICANT BIRTHDATE (MONTH/DAY/YEAR):		
FATHER'S NAME:	PROFESSION:	
MOTHER'S NAME:	PROFESSION:	
OR - LEGAL GUARDIAN(S) NAME:	PROFESSION(S):	
Have your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) ever been employed in the education field? (circle one) YES or NO		
<i>*If yes, complete the information requested below.</i>		
Name of Employer:	Location:	
Dates of Employment:	Relationship:	
HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION DETAILS		
<i>List all high schools attended, as well as dates for each below:</i> <i>*High School transcripts must accompany application for each school attended</i>		
Name of High School:	Dates Attended:	
Name of High School:	Dates Attended:	
Name of High School:	Dates Attended:	
Name of High School:	Dates Attended:	
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATE:		
High School Class Rank:	Number of Graduating Students in High School Class:	
Grade Point Average:	Graduation Exam Scores:	
ACT/SAT Composite Score:	Hearst Foundation Score (if applicable):	
LIST TOP THREE HIGH SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: <i>*Honors, Awards, Leadership Positions, Jobs, or Other Activities</i>		
1.		
2.		
3.		
COLLEGE EDUCATION GOALS		
NAME OF CAREER FIELD or COURSE OF STUDY:		
NAME OF COLLEGE YOU'RE PLANNING TO ATTEND:		
Have you applied to the named college above? (circle one) YES or NO		



**GLORIA SESSIONS VENTRESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
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SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATE SHOULD READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING:

I hereby state that I have read and understand the requirements for the Gloria Sessions Ventress Memorial Scholarship application submission process. I authorize school personnel to release transcripts of my academic record and other information requested for consideration by the Gloria Sessions Ventress Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee. I attest that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Printed Name of Applicant: _____

Please return this fully completed application form, along with the other required documents by
March 16, 2026.

Mail to: Enterprise Area Chamber Foundation, Inc, P.O. Box 310577, Enterprise, Alabama 36331.

Deliver to: 553 Glover Ave, Enterprise, AL 36330

CHECK LIST

- ☐ Completed Application Form
- ☐ Official High School Transcript
- ☐ Letters of Recommendation
- ☐ Personal Summary Essay
- ☐ Current Photo
- ☐ Applicant Signature

[END OF APPLICATION – APPLICANT’S DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE]



**GLORIA SESSIONS VENTRESS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION**

FOUNDATION BOARD ACCEPTANCE

Signature of Foundation Chairman: _____

Date Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Notary Acknowledgment:

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF _____

I, the undersigned authority, in and for said County and State, hereby certify that whose name is signed to the foregoing and who is known to me, who being first duly sworn on oath, acknowledged before me on this day, that the statements contained herein are true and correct and (s)he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. Given under my hand this the day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public Signature: _____

(AFFIX NOTARY SEAL)

My Commission expires: _____

VENTRESS ACCEPTANCE:

Signature of Scholarship Grantee: _____

Date Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Notary Acknowledgment:

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF _____

I, the undersigned authority, in and for said County and State, hereby certify that whose name is signed to the foregoing and who is known to me, who being first duly sworn on oath, acknowledged before me on this day, that the statements contained herein are true and correct and (s)he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. Given under my hand this the day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public Signature: _____

(AFFIX NOTARY SEAL)

My Commission expires: _____