



Special Operations Fund
2024 Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr. Fellowship

Application submission deadline is January 26, 2024

IN HONOR OF

Ambassador (Retired) David C. Miller, Jr. is Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Special Operations Fund. He established the Fund in 1992 to provide scholarships for children of deceased military service members of special mission units. He served as Chairman of the Board until 2018. In recognition and appreciation of his vision and his lifelong commitment to nurturing future public servants through the power of higher education, the Board of Directors established the David C. Miller Scholarship in 2016.

Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr., enjoys a distinguished career in public service and diplomacy. His American Field Service Scholarship to Japan, Harvard College undergraduate degree (with honors, 1964), Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School (1967), and White House Fellowship, all prepared him for a life of leadership. In recognition of his public service, he received an honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Lewis and Clarke College in 1991.

After a year in Vietnam working with Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Ambassador Miller was selected as a White House Fellow in 1968-69, serving with the Attorney General of the United States as Fellow and Confidential Assistant. He continued to serve in the White House from 1970-71 as the Director of the President's Commission on White House Fellows while also working with the Counsel to the President.,

He was Ambassador to Tanzania from 1981-84 and to Zimbabwe from 1984-86. After two years in business, he returned to the White House as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on the National Security Council (NSC) from 1989-90. His NSC portfolio included counterterrorism, counternarcotics, low intensity conflict, Africa, the United Nations, refugees, and public diplomacy.

Ambassador Miller is a founding member and President of the US Diplomatic Studies Foundation, which focuses on improving the training of Foreign Service Officers. He previously worked with the Atlantic Council, where he was the Brent Scowcroft Fellow, and he co-authored reports on reform of the National Security Council followed by a similar report on the Department of State.

He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and the District of Columbia Bar. Additionally, he was co-author of The United States and Africa: A Post-Cold War Perspective, and he has contributed chapters to three books on low intensity conflict.

MILLER FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

The Special Operations Fund will select one Miller Fellow annually to receive up to \$20,000, limited to two years, for a post-graduate Fellowship. Eligible applicants are those who expect to graduate in 2024 from a four-year college prior to the Fellowship, or who are currently pursuing a graduate degree, or who have successfully completed a graduate program within the last three years. The objective of the Fellowship is to provide the selectee an opportunity to become immersed in a foreign culture and work on a service-related project while simultaneously advancing foreign language skills. Applicants will submit proposals to study, work, or participate in charitable or research activities in another country. Proposals should illustrate the applicant's intentions, what they expect to learn, the potential impact on the community, and how the Fellowship will help prepare them for a career in international public service. Such services include the Foreign Service, the intelligence community, the military, non-profit international development activities, or non-governmental organizations (NGO).

Applications will be evaluated on several criteria, which include a review of the applicant's undergraduate or graduate academic rigor, including grade point average and academic honors received. Weight will be given to a candidate's demonstrated or intended public service with added credit given for evidence of preexisting or intended foreign language proficiency.

Applicants for this fellowship will be drawn from a pool of children of Medal of Honor recipients, fallen (killed in action, killed in training, line of duty), or current and veteran Joint Special Operations warriors supported by the following benevolent local scholarship organizations: the Special Operations Fund, Rangers Scholarship Fund (RSF), Unit Scholarship Fund (USF), Night Stalker Foundation (NSF), Navy SEAL Foundation Development Group Scholarship Committee (DGSC), Vigilant Torch Foundation (VTF), and The Association (USAF). These organizations will be asked to assist the SOFund with announcing this program, tracking and identifying qualified applicants.

Applicants will have attained a college or university cumulative grade point average (or equivalent) of 3.2 or higher, have demonstrated academic honors, and have displayed by their activities a sincere interest in the careers mentioned above. Applicants with a cumulative GPA below 3.2 must show an unusually strong record of leadership and achievement in and outside the classroom and must propose a compelling project idea. Applicants will provide two letters of recommendation with their application along with a 500-word proposal for the project to be accomplished during their Fellowship. This proposal will be evaluated on clarity, practicality, and understanding of the country's history, culture, and issues.

As part of the proposal, applicants will be required to identify and connect to an organization, agency, educational institution or defined foreign partner to serve as an official Fellowship host. Examples of such entities include NGOs, Rotary International, TechnoServe, the Peace Corps, and

foreign universities. Applicants are strongly urged to retain an advisor to provide counsel on evaluating possibilities and selecting the proposed project's objective, shaping it, and guiding it to completion.

Each local scholarship organization will submit their top 3 applicants to the Special Operations Fund as candidates for the Miller Fellowship.

Candidates named as finalists should be prepared to participate in a live-streaming video interview.

The Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr. Fellow will be announced in February and the Fellow is expected to begin carrying out their proposed project by the end of the following fall. The Fellow is responsible for obtaining passport, visa, shots, medical insurance, and any other requirements needed to execute the project as applies.

Finally, within three months of concluding the Miller Fellowship, the Fellow will be asked to write a summary describing their experience as a Miller Fellow: assessing the Fellowship project, its educational value, and personal impact. The summary will be submitted to the SOFund's Program Director.

Message from Ambassador Miller

Miller Fellowships are made possible by the wishes of John C. Colman who died in 2020 at the age of 93. John was a guiding light to many in public and private life, an ethical anchor, a humble man, and a dear friend of Ambassador Miller for decades. John was an enlisted Navy electrical technician in WW II where he was among the first to learn about radar. After his service in the Navy, he attended Cornell University, graduating with a degree in chemical engineering. He remained devoted to Cornell throughout his life.

John's government career included serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Department of the Treasury. For his beloved Jewish faith, he was a leader of the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and many other charitable activities. JDC is responsible for the Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation of Jewish refugees around the world. He took pride, and found some humor, in being the first Jewish member of the Council of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago... a Baptist institution founded by John D. Rockefeller. He was a man of faith who cared about people of all races and religions.

In his will, John left the Special Operations Fund monies to secure the Miller Fellowship program for many years to come. It is important to acknowledge his gift to all of us.

Dave Miller