

# SCOTT STASNEY FREEDOM FUND



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## BACKGROUND

Scott Stasney was born to David and Michelle Stasney the day after Valentines Day in 1982. He grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin where he led an active life. As a teen, his lanky six-foot frame was ideally suited for pursuits such as snowboarding, roller blading, soccer, and biking. A music lover, his quick wit and sense of humor entertained audiences when he would DJ at various functions. Scott had many friends and was well liked by his peers.

After graduation from Wausau East High School in 2000, Scott joined the U.S. Marine Corps. The pain of two broken legs could not stop Scott from finishing Marine Boot Camp. His pride and determination to become a marine was stronger than the pain. Scott explained, "Pain is weakness leaving your body." Upon finishing boot camp, he said, "it was the biggest thing I have ever done in my life."

He served in the military for three years, including a stint as a .50 caliber gunner in the Transportation Support Group, running convoys of ammunition, food, water, and fuel to the front lines in Iraq. He was a dedicated soldier who loved his country, and he was determined to defend the American value of freedom.

Upon his return from Iraq, and at the age of 21, Scott was killed in an automobile accident in Fallbrook, California, along with two other Camp Pendleton marines. He had planned to re-enlist in the Marines for another 4 years. He is survived by his parents, David and Michelle, and a younger brother, Allen.

His family established the Scott Stasney Freedom Fund shortly after his death to honor his memory in perpetuity, and to focus on the concept of the freedom that he so cherished and fiercely dedicated his life to preserving. It is their hope that in Scott's memory, people of all ages will be challenged to think, to search their hearts, and to articulate – what freedom means to them as an American citizen.

In this way, while Scott is no longer with us, his memory, and what he so cherished, will be preserved in our hearts – forever.



*Scott A. Stasney, Marine Corporal  
Feb 15, 1982 – Nov 23, 2003*

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**This is NOT a scholarship** – it is a monetary award based on the student's essay reflection on "What Freedom Means to Me as an American." Any Wausau East High School graduating senior is eligible to apply. Students are encouraged to apply online by visiting the Foundation's website at [www.cfoncw.org/grants/scholarships.cfm](http://www.cfoncw.org/grants/scholarships.cfm). Click on the "Apply Online" button to reach the online application portal and begin the registration and application process. Completed applications must be submitted by **February 1** to be considered by the Selection Committee.

In addition to the essay, your application will require a list of extracurricular activities (down form from website) and two reference letters.

A selection committee of the Community Foundation will review the essays and announce the recipient of the Scott Stasney Freedom Award at the Wausau East Senior Awards Ceremony in May.

Questions or requests for further information can be directed to the Community Foundation office.

**Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin**

500 1st Street, Suite 2600, Wausau, WI 54403  
715.845.9555 / [info@cfoncw.org](mailto:info@cfoncw.org) / [www.cfoncw.org](http://www.cfoncw.org)