

Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service

2016 James H. Parke Award Luncheon



Shane Mathew
\$20,000 Scholarship Recipient

Albuquerque Marriott - Albuquerque, New Mexico

Shane Mathew

Miami VA Healthcare System, Miami, Florida

Shane Mathew has served as a youth volunteer at the William “Bill” Kling VA Outpatient Clinic for the last four years. Shane was assigned to the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service’s Polytrauma Program Coordinator and assisted Veterans in the Post Deployment Clinic. His supervisor, Robyn Bolgla, describes him as “the most dependable student volunteer [she] has ever supervised.”

Shane is currently in his first year of Pre-Med at the University of Florida and held many leadership positions in high school including Chapter Vice President of the National Honor Society, President of his school’s chapter of the Health Occupations Students of America, and was recognized by the Coral Springs Veterans Coalition for superior service to his community. His maturity was apparent by his ability to work well in a team and communicate with medical professionals from all disciplines and, most importantly, with the Veteran patients he was assisting. His supervisor notes that Shane “often surpassed the professional medical and physical therapy students with regard to his eagerness to serve and his ability to mentor others less experienced than he.”

The volunteer experience can be as rewarding for supervisors and VA staff as it is for volunteers and Veterans. Ms. Bolgla states that “Shane’s youthful exuberance, positive attitude, and concern for others inspired my Veteran patients and colleagues, since he was a pleasure to have around. Patients often commented on Shane’s unique ability to recognize the sensitive nature of the Veteran population, and empathize with them. They found him impressive, smart, and caring, and were inspired by his commitment to serve our nation’s heroes year after year, on his own time.”

Of his experience as a VA Volunteer, Shane says, “I would never trade my experiences at the VA for anything. The life lessons, encounters, and interactions I gained this summer were truly priceless. As a volunteer, I learned how to provide the best treatment and patient care. For me, it was very important to recognize that the patients coming to physical therapy are not average human beings; rather, they are heroes who have served this country wholeheartedly and undoubtedly suffered for our sake. By interacting with many patients over the course of these summers, I steadily learned how to honor and respect every Veteran I encountered. A smile, greeting, or handshake with a Veteran demonstrates to them that they are cared for and are thus inclined to pass the respect on to the next person they meet.

It was truly a pleasure to have served the patients at the VA over the past four years. Wherever life takes me, I will always look forward to continuing to serve our Veterans in the years to come. I am beyond humbled and honored to be nominated for this award, and I am thankful to the mentors, preceptors, and most importantly, to our nation’s heroes - to whom I owe the greatest amount of gratitude for this and the many other opportunities that our precious, hard-fought freedom allows.”

Program

Welcome	John P. Brown, III, President, James H. Parke Memorial Fund
Invocation	Rafael Aspeitia, VAVS Representative, Salvation Army, NMVAHCS
Pledge of Allegiance	Ryan Weaver and Gordhan Jogia, Hospital Occupation and Career Students, NMVAHCS
Master of Ceremonies	John P. Brown, III
Lunch Served	
Remarks	
Video Presentation	
Presentation of Award	John P. Brown, III
Acceptance Remarks	Shane Mathew
Acceptance of Donations	John P. Brown, III

Additional James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Brandon McLean	Carl Vinson VAMC	\$5,000
Durga Ganesh	VA Palo Alto HCS	\$2,000
Keith Lockhart	James H. Quillen VAMC	\$2,000
Bethany Amerman	Richard L. Roudebush VAMC	\$2,000
Ally Jacobs	VA Ann Arbor HCS	\$2,000
Olivia Schomer	St. Cloud VA HCS	\$2,000

Buffet Menu

Vegetable Minestrone
Caesar or Caprese Salad
Hard and Soft Italian Breads and Oils
Balsamic Grilled Vegetables
Tri-colored Tortellini Alfredo
Chicken Parmesan
Grilled Italian Sausage and Roasted Peppers
Tiramisu with Kahlua Cream, Biscotti and Cannoli
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea

Parke Fund Board Members

President - John P. Brown, III, AMVETS

Vice President - Cara Day, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Treasurer - Chris Slawinski, Fleet Reserve Association

Secretary - Kathryn L. Hare - CTAC, USN (Ret.)

Members:

Patricia Kranzow, American Legion Auxiliary

Ann Davis, American Gold Star Mothers

John Kleindienst, Disabled American Veterans