VVC student veterans get a helping hand

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VICTORVILLE • Military veterans at Victor Valley College will now have the opportunity to gain $250 annually in a scholarship set up by the school’s Veterans Club.

The Spc. Edward J. ‘Doc’ Acosta Memorial Scholarship was announced at a club meeting Wednesday. It honors the fallen soldier who was a family member to a VVC manager, according to a college news release. Acosta was struck by a roadside bomb while serving in Afghanistan and later died after returning home to the High Desert, VVC spokesman Bill Greulich said.

“To gain a scholarship in the name of a fallen hero is an honor that exceeds all others,” said Apple Valley Mayor Art Bishop in a written statement. “They served us and now it is our turn to serve them. Today’s students are facing higher costs for education and we need to be there to help them reach their goals, especially our service personnel and veterans.”

Bishop is also a military veteran and visited the student club to speak about the new scholarship. The club is seeking community donations to support the scholarship fund, which will be presented annually to a veteran or active duty service member, including a member of the National Guard, reservist or dependent.

According to Greulich, Acosta’s familial ties to the military were far reaching as he was named by his parents for a friend who was killed in Vietnam. His mother was a former nursing student at VVC and his father was a game warden with the Mojave River Trout Hatchery located on the lower campus.

Acosta left behind a 2-month-old daughter at the time of his death.

“He was seen by those who knew him as a man of honor, respect, character and maturity,” the VVC news release said.

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