

Capt. Lavarre S. Thompson Memorial Scholarship

The **Capt. Lavarre S. Thompson Memorial Scholarship** was established to honor the legacy of Captain Lavarre S. Thompson and his contributions to the maritime community. This scholarship supports aspiring Bahamian mariners who are committed to pursuing professional captaincy and contributing to the continued growth of the maritime industry in The Bahamas.

The scholarship provides financial assistance toward obtaining a **Class A or Class B Captain's License**, helping the next generation of captains access the training necessary to lead vessels safely and professionally.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a **Bahamian citizen**.
 - Demonstrate a genuine interest in obtaining a **Class A or Class B Captain's License**.
 - Show interest in contributing to the **Bahamian maritime industry**, including transportation, tourism, charter operations, fishing, or other marine services.
 - Preference may be given to applicants from the **Family Islands**.
 - Demonstrate **financial need**.
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Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following:

Completed Application Form

A fully completed Capt. Lavarre S. Thompson Memorial Scholarship application.

Letter of Recommendation

One letter of recommendation from a person who can speak to the applicant's character, work ethic, or interest in the maritime industry. This may include an employer, community leader, teacher, mentor, or maritime professional.

Personal Statement

A personal statement explaining the applicant's interest in obtaining a Class A or Class B Captain's License, their maritime career goals, and how the scholarship will assist them in achieving those goals.

Scholarship Award

The scholarship award will be applied directly toward tuition for the **Class A or Class B Captain's License program** at **any local maritime or navigational institute**.

Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institute on behalf of the selected recipient.

Application Deadline & Submission

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by the announced application deadline.

Applications may be submitted electronically or by the method specified in the official scholarship announcement. Applicants are responsible for ensuring all required documents are submitted before the deadline.

Late or incomplete applications may not be considered.

About Captain Lavarre S. Thompson

Captain Lavarre S. Thompson spent many years working in the maritime industry, serving in roles such as **deckhand, rigger, mate, and captain**. Like many young men from the islands, he began his career with **little formal training**, instead gaining a wealth of practical knowledge from the experienced seafarers he worked alongside.

Through dedication and hard work, he continuously applied himself and developed strong maritime skills. Captain Thompson had a **deep connection to the sea from childhood**, a passion that shaped both his career and his life. Everything he did on the water was done with **passion, skill, and pride in his work**.

He was also known for being **deeply committed to safety at sea**, believing that professionalism and responsibility were essential for anyone entrusted with the command of a vessel.

At the age of **39**, he **took an important step in his professional journey by enrolling to obtain his Class B Captain's License**, demonstrating that determination and commitment to growth can come at any stage of life.

The **Capt. Lavarre S. Thompson Memorial Scholarship** honors his legacy by supporting aspiring Bahamian mariners who share his passion for the sea and who seek to pursue professional maritime training.