



# READING HOT STOVERS

## CHARLES FLANNERY LEGION SCHOLARSHIP



The Charles Flannery Scholarship is open to all Berks League American Legion 2025 Baseball Teams

The Annual Charles Flannery Scholarship,  
provided by the Flannery Family,  
is accepting applications from  
Berks League American Legion Baseball Team Players.

Applications can be obtained here today or by going online

[www.readinghotstoversbaseball.com](http://www.readinghotstoversbaseball.com)

Send completed form and related materials to  
**Donna Flannery**  
**3209 Mannerchor Rd., Temple, PA 19560**

Scholarship awarded at the Annual Reading  
Hot Stovers Banquet held in January 2026.

“Find something that inspires you and share it with as many people as you can.  
Make this world a better place”

**CHARLES FLANNERY**  
**1934-2022**

Questions, call 610-929-4715



## THE CHARLES FLANNERY AMERICAN LEGION, BERKS LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

The eligible American Legion Berks League Baseball Player must:

1. Be a high school senior and accepted into an accredited university, college, or trade school.
2. Have played at least 1 year of Berks League American Legion Baseball.
3. Be in the top 50% of their graduating class with at least a 2.5 GPA.

The Applications MUST contain the following items:

1. A completed Charles Flannery Scholarship Application Form
2. Evidence of high school class rank and or GPA. Photocopies of most recent transcripts will suffice.
3. Confirmation of one year participation in American Legion Berks League Baseball. This confirmation may be included in the letter of reference from the Legion coach.
4. An essay in 250 words written by the applicant, explaining why they should be the Charles Flannery Scholarship honoree.
5. Three letters of reference, one from the Legion coach, and two from non-family members.
6. A list of school activities and community service activities the applicant has participated in (Scouts, Church, Fire Department, Food Bank, Nursing Home etc.) with the approximate hours spent in these said activities and/or volunteered in community service.

**Send completed Application by August 15, 2025 to:**

Donna Flannery  
3209 Mannerchor Road  
Temple, PA 19560

Charles Flannery American Legion, Berks League Scholarship Applications is also available online at [www.readinghotstoversbaseball.com](http://www.readinghotstoversbaseball.com). Completed forms must be mailed to above address.

Determination of Scholarship Winner

- 1, Applications will be reviewed by the Flannery Family, with selection made by reviewing all required materials accompanying the application form. Please do not omit any required materials.
2. Scholarship winner will be notified by a Flannery family member, with the scholarship awarded at the Annual Hot Stovers Banquet held in January 2026.
3. The Charles Flannery Scholarship application process will follow the Reading Hot Stovers existing policy adopted at the July 13, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. The Scholarship is provided to the Reading Hot Stovers by The Flannery Family.

Contact 610-929-4715 if you have questions regarding the Charles Flannery Scholarship

# CHARLES FLANNERY LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

## FOR BERKS LEAGUE AMERICAN LEGION

### BASEBALL PLAYERS

Distributed through the Reading Hot Stovers

Name	Last	First	Middle
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Address	Street	City	State	Zip
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Date of Birth	Phone	E-Mail
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High School	GPA	Class Rank
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Parent/Guardian	Phone	E-Mail
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Guidance Counselor	Phone	E-Mail
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Athletic Director	Phone	E-Mail
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Legion Baseball Coach	Phone	E-Mail
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Position(s) Played	Legion Team	Years Played Legion Baseball
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Name of Trade School/University/College You Plan to Attend
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Address	Street	City	State	Zip
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Admissions Office Contact	Phone	E-Mail
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Anticipated Field of Study	Do you plan to play baseball in college Y/N
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Applicant Signature	Date
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Hello Legion ballplayer,

Thank you for applying for the Charles Flannery Scholarship for Berks League American Legion baseball players. Through the application form and accompanying written essay, the Flannery family gets to know each of the applicants and their qualifications and interests. We would like for you to know something about the person this scholarship honors, Charles Flannery.

“Charlie”, as most who knew him, spent his life loving the game of baseball as far back as a kid playing on the Essick playground in the City Recreation program in Reading. Then later on playing fast-pitch softball with the Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute. In his early adult life he spent his time instilling the love of the game in the young people he met through all the volunteer organizations he took part in as a coach. He started his coaching career with the Optimists Boys Club, then on to Northwest Athletic Association and West Reading Juniors. He coached the Pulaski Post American Legion team for 3 seasons, and then on to Gregg Post “Keys” American Legion team for 31 seasons with 254 victories after “Cooter Jones” stepped down. Charlie Flannery is in the Pennsylvania State American Legion Hall of Fame for his contributions to the game. He was also the President of the Berks County American Legion Baseball League from 2006-09. Also volunteering his time behind the scenes, he led a group of baseball minded guys in the refurbishing of Reading’s George Field as a charter member of “Operation Knight Lights” where they upgraded the dug outs, concession stand, locker rooms and put up the lights for night games.

Baseball was his first sports love, but he was active in basketball as well. He was a PIAA referee from 1967 to 1992, a coach with the Optimist Boys Club, the Reading Jewish Community Center coach from 1971 to 1993, served as Secretary of Berks County Basketball Old Timers from 2001-2013, and was the chairman of the Basketball Hall of Fame Committee from 2007-2012.

Charlie was a Reading native and graduated from Reading High School in 1952 and went on to earn a degree from Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute in 1957. After completing his education, he served active and reserve duty in the United States Army, graduating from the Provost Marshall General School as an “MP” (military police). After his service in the Army he served 4 years in the United States Air Force Reserves as a first sergeant and member of the Air Police in a Recovery Squadron at the Reading Airport. As a Veteran he was a proud member of Gregg Post #12 American Legion, serving as Treasurer, which brought him full circle from where he started out as the American Legion’s baseball coach of the Gregg Post Keys. In his later years he served as the Gregg Post Liaison Officer to the Mohnton Naval Sea Cadets where he taught the Cadets military protocol and instructed them in becoming an Honor Guard group for military ceremonies. The Naval Sea Cadet Honor Guard was frequently used as the Honor Guard when Charlie arranged for families of local Veterans to honor their loved ones service with a Flag Dedication ceremony and Fightin’ Phils home games. In recognition of giving his life to the game of baseball, the Reading Fightin’ Phils Organization made Charlie Flannery the 2014 “King of Baseballtown”. He also got the Sea Cadets involved in several community service projects such as updating the Veterans listed as being interred in the Wyomissing Mausoleum, and placing flags at each one.

So as you read this summary of Charlie Flannery’s lifetime of dedication to youth sports and the needs of his community that he helped fill, his family would like you to think about his life’s philosophy, with this excerpt from his obituary he himself wrote:

“My life has been full and I feel it has been spent making a difference  
in the lives of all I have enjoyed knowing each step along the way”

He asked that those who knew him carry on where he left off, to make this world a better place.

In closing, the Flannery family wanted you to know what kind of man this scholarship honors and hopes that you as a Legion ballplayer applicant will take his philosophy to heart and let it inspire you in your life too.