

March 2020

# THE HEINLEIN SOCIETY



Early Spring Greetings!



Photo by [Johannes Plenio](#) from [Pexels](#)

Amidst pandemic and uncertainty, we hope you're well and keeping yourselves safe. Remember -  
Wash your hands, ya coppers!

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## Behind the Scenes at The Heinlein Society

Have you ever wondered how it all happens? Here's a look at how our Heinlein for Heroes (H4H) program works.

By John Seltzer

I'm one of "Heinlein's Children". Unlike most Heinleiners, I didn't discover him until I was 60 years old – a friend gave me a copy of *Friday* and I read it in two days. Then I read *Starship Troopers*, and I was hooked. I went to Wikipedia,

got a full list of his works, and what I couldn't find in e-book I bought in paperback. It didn't take me long to find The Heinlein Society. I joined and became a Director on the Board shortly thereafter. When we discussed starting Heinlein for Heroes, Herb (Gilliland) and I volunteered to head up the program. Herb had the contacts to get ship-to addresses, so I volunteered to box, label, and mail the books. Within a few months, our first shipments were on their way.

Today, I've got thousands of books in my garage on rolling carts and shelves, and even more in the attic.



I believe in RAH's "Pay it forward" philosophy, so I help by sending SF books to the Military. [Read the rest of the story here.](#)

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## Applications are Open for The Heinlein Society Scholarships

by Mike Sheffield

We are very pleased to announce our ninth annual scholarship essay contest for the 2020 -2021 academic year is now open. Three \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate students of accredited 4-year colleges and universities. The "Virginia Heinlein Memorial Scholarship" is dedicated to a female candidate majoring in engineering, math, or biological or physical sciences. The Dr. Yoji Kondo and Dr. Jerry Pournelle scholarships may be awarded to a candidate of any gender, and add "Science Fiction as literature" as an eligible field of study. Applicants will need to submit a 500-1,000 word essay on one of several available topics.

The application deadline is April 1, 2020. Winners will be announced on July 7, 2020.

For more details go to <http://www.heinleinsociety.org/scholarship-program/>



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## Material Needed for Heinlein Journal

The new editors of *The Heinlein Journal* wish to build on the foundation laid by its founder Bill Patterson. With the goal of producing two issues per year of a credible academic publication, we particularly seek analytic, scholarly articles on anything relevant to Heinlein: his work, life, influence. We can also consider less formal essays involving, for example, personal experience with Heinlein. We need material!

Contact Herb Gilliland, [baywatchcrawdada@aol.com](mailto:baywatchcrawdada@aol.com) with material or queries.

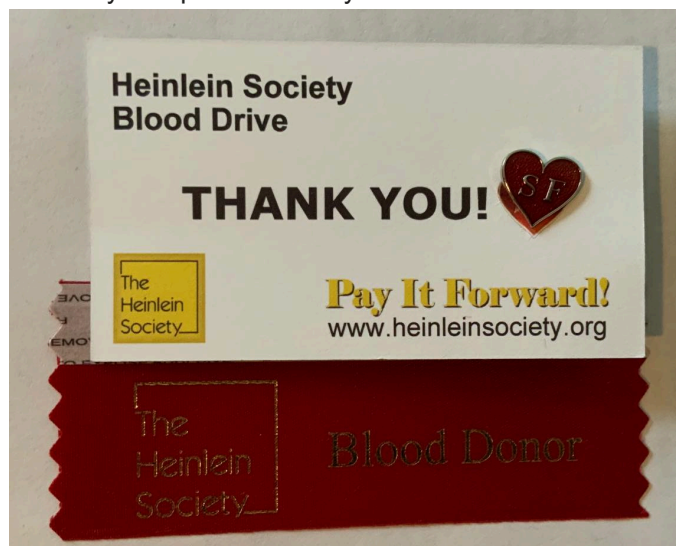
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## Blood Drive Update - Coordinators Wanted!

*by Carlin Black, Blood Drive Chair*

As Cons sponsoring Heinlein Society Blood Drives are being cancelled in response to the Covid-19 situation, The Heinlein Society will run virtual blood drives where disappointed con donors can donate locally and give credit to the Con and The Heinlein Society!

If you want to participate, schedule a donation with a local blood center or blood drive. After donating, send a selfie with your "I donated today!" sticker, and some sort of Con ID (Sharpie tags are OK!) to [BloodDriveChair@HeinleinSociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@HeinleinSociety.org). Alternatively, for anonymous credit a pic of the Coach or Center will suffice with a donation tag and Con in the pic. In any case include the type of donation (Whole Blood, Double or Power Red, or other) with your name (Con Name OK) and USPS address so we can send you a pinned thank you card and ribbon.



We hope to post miniature, "click to expand", selfies on a virtual blood drive page under the appropriate con on The Heinlein Society website.

The Heinlein Society needs people all over the country who want to Pay It Forward as blood drive coordinators! If you're headed to a Con (or even if you

live near one) and are interested in helping Pay It Forward, please reach out to [BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:BloodDriveChair@heinleinsociety.org) to learn about the awesome perks of coordinating a blood drive.

Help us share the **Pay It Forward** mission!



Watch [The Heinlein Society Blood Drive Page on Facebook](#) for more details!

**This fiscal year, we've made 196 shipments already, totaling 2448 books distributed. Since the program's inception, we've sent 26,302 total books to our heroes.**



The Heinlein For Heroes program (H4H) sends free books to troops, veterans, and military families. We send only to individuals or units that have requested SF material. Clearly many of our military men and women WANT to read good science fiction, including Heinlein. To meet that demand, our shipments go around the globe, as well as to veterans' hospitals here at home.

Contributions keep coming in, but your help is still needed. We need gently used paperbacks—and especially Heinleins, as we include Heinlein books in every shipment.

Money contributions are used to buy books wherever we find them (book dealers, eBay) at the right price. But free is even better than cheap. Is an SF friend or neighbor downsizing? You can help them and help us!

You can send us books at:  
Heinlein for Heroes  
c/o John Seltzer  
2906 Alvarado Dr.  
Bellingham, WA 98229

Go to [heinleinsociety.org/h4h/](http://heinleinsociety.org/h4h/) for information!



Captain James A. Lovell  
Federal Health Care Center  
3001 Green Bay Road  
North Chicago, Illinois 60064

In Reply Refer To: 556/135

February 7, 2020

The Heinlein Society  
3553 Atlantic Ave #341  
Long Beach, CA 90807

Dear Friends:

On behalf of our veterans at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, please accept my warmest thanks for your recent donation of books.

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by our medical center staff and by the veteran patients we proudly serve. Our veterans enjoy knowing that the sacrifices they have made for our country are remembered.

Again, thank you for your kindness and support of veterans.

Sincerely,

KENNETH L. LIST  
Chief, Community Affairs



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Voluntary Service

Oklahoma City  
921 N.E. 13th St  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-5007

March 02, 2020

In Reply Refer To: 635/135

The Heinlein Society  
3553 Atlantic Ave., #341  
Long Beach, CA 90807

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

On behalf of the Oklahoma City patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of books.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

MELISSA OVERFIELD  
Chief, Voluntary Service



Good afternoon! I used to be a voracious consumer of science fiction in my youth, and I'm sure my steady diet of RAH during adolescence was quite an influence on my development. I fell away from the genre for a few decades, but it caught back up with me. I'm currently deployed to the middle east with the Army, and I stumbled upon a box of books donated by Heinlein for Heroes. Just like that, I'm back, re-reading everything. The best part is that I've mostly forgotten the details of the stories, so I get to enjoy them for the first time all over again. It's a pleasure to meet all of you!

Mark Richards





Questions about your membership or automatic renewal? Please contact Ken Walters at [membershiprenewal@heinleinsociety.org](mailto:membershiprenewal@heinleinsociety.org).

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Heinlein Society News and Updates

**Our mailing address is:**

The Heinlein Society  
3553 Atlantic Avenue, #341  
Long Beach, CA 90807

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