

2007 Scholarship Grant Recipients

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation, Inc. awarded 2007 scholarship grants in the amount of \$1000 each to Erin K. Willis, Fort Stewart, Georgia; Ina Robinson, Martinsville, West Virginia, and Alison Manley, Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Our 2007 judges, Tomas R. Maines, Jerome A. Manley, Marco Montoya, Whitney P. Mullen, and Lynn D. Ball, commend these three recipients chosen from a field of excellent candidates. The profiles following summarize our grant recipients' unique excellence, and we thank the sponsors who nominated each candidate.

Erin K. Willis, sponsored by her mother, SFC Sonya K. Willis, is a freshman at Kennesaw State University where she is majoring in early childhood education. Miss Willis entered the university with a 4.0 grade point average. Community service includes church and sports leadership activities, math tutoring, and assistance with Senior Olympics (in the U.S. and Japan), and church-sponsored local blood drives. Extracurricular activities include soccer referee and coach, church choir singer, and high school student aid. Miss Willis holds memberships in Phi Eta Sigma, soccer team, swim team, art club, and more. Her essay, entitled

“My Mom, My Hero,” begins “Combat Veteran/Combat soldier/American Warrior are not a combination of words usually associated with women, but that is what my mother is; she is a soldier fighting against terrorism in Iraq.” Miss Willis’s essay dramatically summarizes the life of a soldier and her family as they deal with frequent and extended separations, and she does it without a hint of complaint from either her hero or her family. As Miss Willis’s essay closes, the reader finds himself admiring her brave family of six, as it meets every challenge with pride, patriotism, and a smile, and praying for her hero’s safe and speedy homecoming.

Ina Robinson, sponsored by her father, WWII Veteran Kenneth W. Robinson, is a junior at Wheeling Jesuit University where she was admitted with high honors. Miss Robinson holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science and is currently majoring in Organization Leadership and Development. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a national academic honor society; a fulltime employee in at her junior college, and a fulltime student. Nevertheless, she finds time for much participation in church programs and community service, recently serving as emcee for a local community effort involving some 3,000 people. Her essay, entitled “Dad’s 3rd Infantry

Division,” develops an uncommonly accurate and concise depiction of the African and Mediterranean campaigns of WWII. Additionally, she provides excellent analysis and conclusions that demonstrate her extensive knowledge and understanding of the strategic implications of the campaign. In summary she states, that none of the events of these campaigns would have occurred if “not for the brave ‘dogface soldiers’ of the 3rd Infantry Division in which my father served bravely at the age of seventeen.” She ends her essay

with “Thank you, dogface soldiers, for providing me a country which has allowed each and everyone of us the freedom of speech and life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Alison Manley, sponsored by her grandfather, Korea War Veteran Jerome A. Manley, is a sophomore at Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University where she was admitted with high honors to the College of Arts and Science as an education major. She holds her high school President’s Award for Educational Excellence, her university President’s Scholarship Award, and the 2006 Minnesota Association of Dance Teams Academic All-State Award. She is a member of the National Honor Society and of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Community service includes assistance at local elementary schools as a reading helper and teacher’s aid. She also worked to spread awareness of breast cancer through National Lee Denim Day, donated food and clothes in support of local drives for the needy, and served as guest reader in several elementary classrooms. Her essay, “Patriotism and Supporting Our Troops,” defines “patriotism” and points to the fact that regardless of the individual soldier’s personal belief in combative actions, each is dedicated to the larger issue of support of the United States. “That is patriotism.” She recognizes the Korea campaign as a “conflict” but states that the soldiers participating knew it was a “war.” She applauds our fighting men as true heroes and patriots who served our country in times of need throughout history and calls upon each of us to support of our troops. She expresses regret for the treatment of returning veterans of the Viet Nam conflict and urges that all soldiers receive the prouder traditional “hero’s welcome home.” She concludes her essay by pointing to our responsibility to show our patriotism by supporting our military.