

## 2011 Scholarship Grant Awards

Judging the 2011 Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation grant submissions were Earl E. Killen, Jerry B. Kraft, Thomas R. Maines, and Dr. Marco Montoya. This year, we had a huge number of applicants and our judges worked very hard to find the ten strongest candidates; their findings follow, and we thank them for their efforts. All of the recipients listed below have an incredible number of academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and community service efforts to their credit. These young people who represent our Division are certainly to be commended for their service to their families, their schools, and the communities they serve. Our Foundation directors are proud to make these awards on behalf of our generous donors.

**Danielle N. Allyn** of Fort Hood, Texas, is the recipient of the **Major General Maurice Kendall Award**. Danielle's sponsor is her father, MG Daniel B. Allyn, who served as Brigade Combat Team Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 2001-2003, including service during OIF 1. Danielle is seeking a Bachelor Degree in psychology at the University of North Carolina and hopes to intern with the Navy's Marine Mammal Program. It is her aim to become a dolphin-assisted therapist working with children and adults with special needs. Danielle was First in her class during all four years of high school while maintaining her top position in soccer. Danielle's essay, entitled "The Greatest Nation on Earth," begins with reflections on her outrage on September 11, 2001, when she was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and witnessed the actions and disrespectful antics of classmates when a moment of prayer was called by her teacher. She discusses her family's feelings about the absence of her father during various deployments, and moves to explaining the faith and feelings of pride, not just in her family, but also in the hearts of many Americans. She says, "My civic pride is based not upon America's economic superiority, educational dominance, or even vast natural beauty, but upon the people that make this country great. . ."

**Alden B. Coffin** of East Rochester, New Hampshire, is the recipient of the **James and Joan Strawn Award for Excellence**. Alden's sponsor is his maternal grandfather, Leonard L. Lassar, who served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1952-53, during the Silent River Offensive. Alden hopes to earn a doctorate in sociology with emphasis in philosophy at the College of The Holy Cross. Alden sees this path of study as a means to understand social phenomenon such as power and welfare. At this point in his studies, Alden is asking many questions which begin with "Do those in power have the right to. . .?" Alden's essay, "Interpreting Contemporary Examples of Patriotism" explores patriotism as it exists today. While Alden sees some patriotism reminiscent of the WWII era, he feels that much of today's patriotism is more internalized. It seems only to become "group patriotism" through special groups and organized efforts. Alden strives to encourage group patriotism through his activities as drum major and through patriotic efforts in support of our veterans and our Soldiers, both at home and overseas. Alden's essay is very much grounded in his interest in sociology. He wants to know how things work, and he is wise enough to realize that society is driving all of our actions and reactions.

**Alyssa G. Crippen** of Rome, New York, is the recipient of the **Dr. and Mrs. Bae Suk Lee Award in Honor and Memory of the Hungnam Evacuation, Dec. 1950**. Alyssa's sponsor is her maternal grandfather, Francis Daniello, who served with the 38<sup>th</sup> Battle Group, 1957-1959. Alyssa is studying biomedical engineering at Boston University. She plans to earn a PhD in the hope of entering the field of tissue engineering and assist in the research and development of artificial kidneys. Alyssa's interest in these fields stems from her concern for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy which places kidneys at risk. Academically, Alyssa skipped seventh

grade and earned 30 college credits while also participating in JROTC. In her essay, “What it Means to be Free,” Alyssa believes people complain too much and that is impacting our nation’s military in our fight for freedom. She reviews the many freedoms we have and attributes those freedoms to our Soldiers. She believes our Soldiers of WWII were so successful, in large part, because of the vast support they received from home. Our Soldiers, today, need the same level of support. “How can we expect our troops in Afghanistan to prevail if we are not willing to support them?” “Freedom is not free.” “Many think their freedoms are provided for them without thinking about how that is possible.” “Without national pride, America can no longer be the land of the free.”

**Sarah Dingee** of Chicopee, Massachusetts, received the **Terrence A. Smith Award in Honor and Memory of Captain Michael J. MacKinnon**. Sarah’s sponsor is her parental grandfather, Donald C. Dingee, who served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1952-1954. Sarah is a business major at Suffolk University studying marketing and advertising. Her hope is to work in the music or clothing industries. Sarah’s essay, entitled “Charlie Johnson: A True Dogface Soldier,” is about Johnson’s brave actions in Korea on June 12, 1953, when Johnson gave his life while rescuing his comrades. Intermingled in her story are the first hand views of her grandfather, Donald Dingee, who was one Soldier saved by Johnson. We might recall that Donald Dingee held a supporting role in our article about PFC Charles Johnson’s posthumous award of the Silver Star which appeared in *The Watch on the Rhine*, December 2010. Sarah did not reference our article but her storyline coincides with the facts we collected. She views Johnson as both her grandfather’s and her hero. “If it weren’t for Johnson’s ultimate sacrifice as a Dogface Soldier. . .I would not be here today . . .” Sarah brings to the forefront the fact that the sacrifices made by our Soldiers in the past influence the structure of our families today, and we must recognize and honor those sacrifices.

**Ashley N. Gilmore** of Hinesville, Georgia, received the **Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation Award in Honor of Captain Paul W. Stanley**. Ashley’s sponsor is her mother, Beverly A. Carradine-Gilmore, who served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Soldier Support Battalion, 2000-2002. Ashley is seeking a Bachelor Degree, at the University of Georgia, in child and family development with emphasis in early childhood development. She hopes to earn her Master Degree with focus on non-profit organizations. Following graduation, Ashley hopes to enter the field of Early Childhood Education. Ashley’s essay, entitled “Americans and National Pride,” notes her pride in America and laments the fact that people from other countries cannot express the same pride in their countries. As a member of a military family, Ashley has had the opportunity to meet many people in other countries who want to come to America. She praises our nation for its “helping hand” and believes our actions, as Americans, should reflect our pride in America. “There is no greater honor than to be a citizen of the United States. . .[It is] an honor that I truly appreciate and a country that I have the privilege of calling home.”

**Aidan Hoie** of Omaha, Nebraska, received the **Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation Award in Honor and Memory of SFC Ralph E. “Rick” Rickenbacher, WWII and the Korean War**. Aidan’s sponsor is her maternal grandfather, Keith Lerum, who served in Korea with the 58<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 1951-52. Aidan is seeking a degree from Northwestern University with a major in psychology and a minor in Spanish. She hopes to attend graduate school and work in the field of Sports Psychology. In her essay, “National Pride,” Aidan takes an interesting approach to the subject which she feels she fully understood in the aftermath of 9/11 when she was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She witnessed a great deal of

“coming together,” and noticed that all of the songs about America took on a new meaning for her. She credits our military with our freedom and praises those who helped everyone in need in the immediate hours after 9/11, as well as for months and years afterward. She sees their actions as the essence and true meaning of America. She knows America isn’t perfect, but “This is your land, this land is my land and that is good enough for me.”

**Justin P. Miller** of Oakmont, Pennsylvania, received the **Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Award Honoring LTG William G. Webster Jr.** Justin’s sponsor is his now deceased, maternal grandfather, Peter Piccirillo. Peter served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during WWII. The letter on his behalf was written by Justin’s mother, Julie K. Miller, an Associate Member of the Society. At Brown University, Justin will major in commerce, organizations, and entrepreneurship which combines economics, sociology, and engineering. Justin would like “to shrink the world,” by developing an international business that will enable more members of the world’s population to have access to technology, medical, educational, and financial innovations so they can obtain opportunities and independence. Justin’s essay, entitled “What They Did: 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Had Bloody Trail” was prompted by a news article by the same title that appeared in the *New Castle News* in 1945. The article discusses the Division during WWII, its casualties, and its Medal of Honor recipients. Justin’s grandfather gave him his medals, shoulder Patch, and his WWII album, and Justin used his grandfather’s words to shed light on the bravery, honor, and patriotism of members of the Division. “War is hell, but I would serve my country again without hesitation,” Justin believes that this sentiment is alive and well in the Division today.

**Christine Nussio** of Woodbridge, Virginia, received the **Thomas W. Mason Old China Hand Award for Excellence.** Christine’s sponsor is her father, Colonel Ricky J. Nussio, who served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, 2001-2004. Christine is seeking a Bachelor Degree in history from Christendom College and hopes to study at the graduate level at Catholic University of America. She wants to work as a historical journalist. Christine already has several articles published, two of which appeared in previous issues of *The Watch on the Rhine*. Her aims as an author are to bring “the love and knowledge of history” to others. Christine’s essay, “The Leading Edge of Conventional Counter-Terrorism Operations,” begins with a reminder of the 9/11 attack and discusses America’s efforts to quell such attacks in the future. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division engaged the terrorist threat when deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in September 2001. After successfully completing the Bosnia-Herzegovina mission, the Division moved to Kuwait and, later, led the assault into Iraq and secured the Capital City of Baghdad. The 3<sup>rd</sup> has been playing a continuing role in securing American interests and the safety of those at home through skillful and decisive actions like those at Vosoko Airfield in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Ina L. Robinson** of New Martinsville, West Virginia, received the **Adam Kradyna Memorial Award Honoring James Kradyna.** Ina’s sponsor is her father, Kenneth W. Robinson, who served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1942-1944. She is seeking a graduate degree in educational leadership/higher education administration at West Virginia University. Ina’s essay, entitled “Our Freedom,” discusses current events in the Middle East and urges all of us to step back and be grateful for our freedoms. She suggests we start with the actions of our Revolutionary War heroes, who gained our freedom from England, and continue being thankful up to the present, with particular focus on our Dogface Soldiers who ensure our freedom today. She discusses her father and his comrades’ service to our country during WWII. She acknowledges the present day difficulties of high unemployment, high prices, and the necessity to prioritize where we spend our money, but “we still have our freedom to worship as we wish and to speak our minds.” “That is why our veterans of all wars and branches of service have

placed their lives on the line.” It was and is “so we may enjoy the benefits that so many in the world do not have.”

**Ethan H. Vail** of Michigan City, Indiana, received the **Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation Award in Honor and Memory of James K. Arness**. Ethan’s sponsor is his maternal grandfather, William H. Harris, who served with the Military Police Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, in Korea in 1954. Ethan is seeking a degree in theatre from Purdue University and hopes to enter the theatrical workforce as a lighting designer or seek a graduate degree in lighting design. Ethan’s essay, entitled “Patriotism is Everywhere,” was prompted by the movie “Men of Honor.” Its main character, a navy diver, wants to return to duty after losing a leg. His reason? “Honor.” Ethan sees this as a strong tradition that carries over to our nation. He views this aspect of patriotism emanating from our Soldiers who defend us to our teachers who shape us, and even in theatrical productions. Ethan skillfully covers our country’s wars, from the Civil War to Desert Storm and into the present. In these military actions, he sees great patriotism. In education he also sees patriotism and focuses on the charitable drives that provide life-saving help to the needy—even when “students collected their snacks to send to our Soldiers overseas.” He talks about the effects of the “Pledge of Allegiance” on the audience in a production for which he provided lighting. He thinks that patriotism “comes down to a simple fact which is similar to...the line in ‘Men of Honor.’” “It is an honor to be patriotic. . . Being patriotic is having the honor to be part of the greatest nation on Earth.”

—Submitted by Lynn Ball, Chairman