

2016 Scholarship Awardees

Austin C. Blanchard, of Lilburn, Georgia, received the “**Col. and Mrs. Terrence A. Smith Award in Honor of the 184th Infantry (Air Assault), OIF 2005-2006, a Valorous Unit.**” Austin’s sponsor was his maternal grandfather, Robert C. Barfield: Company F, 7th Inf. Regt, Korea, 1953. Austin is pursuing a degree in Business Administration at Georgia College and State University. His essay, “**National Pride,**” gives examples: Saluting the American Flag, our rallying after 9/11, and the 2010 “Restoring Honor Rally” at the Lincoln Memorial. Austin talks about his trip to Washington DC with parents on his 16th birthday, about camping out at the Memorial, about Bruce, a man they met and accompanied during the trip. Bruce loves America and talked about his service to our country. Austin heard speakers who sparked patriotism, and he includes quotes by Alveda King and Sarah Palin. He lists the heroic individuals who received Purple Heart Medals and the reasons for the awards. He observed his parents’ reactions to the events with pride. He returns to the present and his efforts to imitate Christ in his efforts to serve his community and his pride as a volunteer firefighter. He ends summarizing his love of country—our freedom of religion, right to bear arms, freedom of occupation, and right to control our lives. He want to demonstrate what an American should look like in word and deed.

Haley R. Blanchard, of Lilburn, Georgia, received the Foundation’s “**Award in Honor and Memory of 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers for Their Meritorious Services in the Evacuation of Military and Civilian Refugees from Hungnam, North Korea, December 1950.**” Her sponsor was her maternal grandfather, Robert C. Barfield: Company F, 7th Inf. Regt, Korea, 1953. Haley is pursuing a degree at the University of Georgia in the hope of becoming a speech pathologist. Her “**My Grandfather, My Hero**”: Defines “hero.” Haley talks about the actions of her grandfather, Robert Barfield, during the Korean War battle of Boomerang. She explains Barfield’s rescue of the runner sent for help and of Major Lewis Hotelling’s account of Barfield’s bravery. Haley includes an excerpt from Hotelling’s account of Barfield’s faithfulness and true humility. Now, at 18 year of age, she will vote for the candidate who will strengthen the military. “Because of my grandfather, I want to live my life as a testimony to my thankfulness for my personal freedom and unalienable Rights to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Westley P. Brooks, of Ft. Stewart, Georgia, received the Foundation’s “**Award in Honor and Memory of SFC Ralph E. ‘Rick’ Richenbacher.**” Westley was sponsored by his father, Winston P. Brooks, active duty with the 3rd Infantry Division: 1st Brigade Combat Team (Ft. Stewart), previously 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Fort Benning (1998-2001). Westley is pursuing a degree in nursing at the University of Alabama. His essay, “The True Respect for America: I am an American,” is a powerful statement. Many people come to America with the intention of achieving the ability to make that statement and know that the greatest country on Earth stands behind them. A small price to pay for this invaluable citizenship is Patriotism. Patriotism should be automatic, because Americans are free to do and say what they like without fear of repercussions from the government. As a military child, Westley knows what it means to proudly serve one’s country. “My father has been deployed for almost half of my life.” That is a sad statement. Soldiers like my father, my neighbors, and my friends’ parents are all people that average citizens should admire. They don’t get to live everyday lives like the rest of the people in this country. These soldiers risk their lives every day and are the reason why people continue to be blessed with all the many great freedoms this country offers. Fewer than 1% of Americans serve in the U.S. Armed Forces so we should all strive to be patriotic. The documents on which our freedoms are founded provide our freedoms and our Soldiers protect those freedoms. America’s founders created a government to protect people because of their selfless thoughts, actions, and patriotism. Today, that patriotism benefits all of us. He describes ways to show patriotism and concludes with “Freedom isn’t free.” “We owe it to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms to show patriotism to this great nation. God Bless the United States of America.”

Sedona Bulle, of Seligman, Arizona, received the Foundation’s “**Legacy Award in Honor of Major General Maurice W. Kendall.**” She was sponsored by her father, Shawn M.

Bulle, 3rd ID, Bamberg, Germany (1989-1990: 3rd Infantry Division, A/76FA). Sedona, enrolled in ROTC, is pursuing a degree at Northern Arizona University. Her plans include becoming an officer in the Air Force. She is studying Chinese in the hope of becoming a translator. Her essay, **“America the Free,”** talks of the people have fled to America for hundreds of years. The American Dream has promised people freedom, liberty, opportunities, and equality. “I’m honored to be an American. We have rights others do not have, especially in areas of personal freedom, protection of rights and career opportunities.” Several decades ago, her great-grandpa fled to America to be safe and free from the Austrian Empire. Then she mentions the freedoms we have and that her ability to vote carries responsibility—her voice matters. She talks about our founding fathers and their intentions. Talks about her freedoms that allow her to choose her studies in forestry and Chinese. Despite America’s humble beginnings it has grown into a nation that other countries emulate and look up to. It is a land laden with opportunity. She concludes with, “I look forward to taking my place as a contributing member of society. I am free, and I am willing to protect everything we stand for. I am an American and I’m proud of it.”

Kaylee McGraw-Wright, of Cheney, Washington, received the Foundation’s **“Legacy Award in Honor and Memory of Thomas W. Mason.”** Kaylee’s sponsor is her great grandfather, Dale McGraw, 9th Field Artillery, Korea. Kaylee is pursuing a degree in science and nursing at Eastern Washington University. Her essay, **“Patriotism,”** Defines patriotism and observes that it increases in times of tragedy such as wars and terrorist attacks. She discusses various examples of displaying patriotism. She believes an act of patriotism must accomplish something such as donating money to the Army. She thinks that people who go through the motions of displaying patriotism (singing our National Anthem and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance) don’t really know why they are doing either. She discusses the origins and evolutions of both the Anthem and the Pledge. She believes acts of patriotism are the same in various countries. Patriots in America and other countries fight for freedom: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion.

Matthew “Alec” Roach, of Roanoke, Virginia, received the Foundation’s **“Award Honoring the Active Duty Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division.”** His sponsor is his paternal grandfather, Paul M. Roach, G/15th Regt, Korea. Alec is pursuing a degree in English and philosophy at Virginia Military Institute. His essay, **“Loyalty”** opens with his status as a junior at VMI and the grandson of a 3rd Infantry Division Veteran, Alec has recently received his commission in the U. S. Army. He explains his earlier understanding of “loyalty” and how his definition has evolved to include loyalty to brother “rats” (a term used for classmen at VMI), to the Institute, and to the nation. He details the rat line—six long months of training to teach the incoming class the basics of being a cadet at VMI. This routine develops the kind of loyalty that means you would do anything legal and honorable for a fellow rat. He talks about the death of a classmate during physical training and how the cadets dealt with it. Then he discusses how loyalty to VMI develops. Finally, he discusses the deep development of loyalty to our nation. He states: “I have come to understand that unlike patriotism or nationalism, which are ideologies, Loyalty is a clear action. Whether to my fellow rats, the institution or the nation, I am finding that my sense of loyalty is evolving and expanding and will be fundamental in my future success as an Army officer.”

Ryan Rosen, of Fullerton, California, received the **“Scholarship Foundation Memorial Award in Honor and Memory of SFC Nick Ramba.”** His sponsor is his paternal grandfather, Morris S. Rosen, 39th FA HQ BTY, World War II. Ryan is pursuing a degree in civil engineering at Le Tourneau University. His essay, **“The Importance of Preserving National Identity in the Modern World,”** begins with references to *A Kid from Pittsburgh*—the story of his grandfather’s experiences during WWII. It follows the path of Allies through Europe on the Western Front and talks about relationships of freedom in Europe, Asia, and America then, now, and in the future. “The evils of Nazi Germany are not exclusive to Hitler.” Ryan mentions Father Patrick Desbois’ and the French organization, “Together as One.” Desbois sees a comparison of Nazi activities to ISIS—“not the same ideology, but behind, it’s the same disease.” Europe is flooded with refugees. Europeans must act vigilantly to preserve their Western ideology. The

trend is that Europeans will lose identity leaving America as the sole torchbearer of liberty in the world. We must come together to avoid European decay and weakness, focus on the pillars on which our nation was built. (He is referring to the pillars engraved on our penny.) We must remember, believe, and practice liberty (“E Pluribus Unum” and “In God We trust.”). The instability in this election year makes it difficult to remember our national identity. Though political differences are deep schisms, the penny continually tells us to become one. We have liberty as Americans and must trust in God to make the future of the United States even more promising than its rich history. Patriotism is more important now than ever. We must fight for freedom, stop and expose evil in the world, and open the gates that blinded the world to the sins of ISIS. We must protect our American ideology from foreign and domestic threats to avoid an outcome like modern Europe is experiencing. “Remembering the pillars engraved on the penny, we can launch ourselves forward into a positive future. That’s what my grandfather and all of the other soldiers in World War II fought for.”

Hannah Yaeger, of Swampscott, Massachusetts, received the **“Scholarship Award in Honor and Memory of Karen Carew Wold.”** Her sponsor is her maternal grandfather, Charles M. Lamlein, Korea 1952-53, Sgt., 3rd Div. Signal Company. Hannah is pursuing a degree in ecology at Susquehanna University. Her essay, **“Service: for Our Town, Our Country, and the World,”** claims the same principles as service personnel. Giving back to community is important. Parents and grandparents have demonstrated this through their actions; their efforts have inspired Hannah to become a museum educator in an urban setting. As a family they volunteered with their church and community. Through the Girl Scouts, Hannah volunteered at urban shelters and centers for underserved people. She also, planted flowers for churches and cleaned beaches. Hannah discusses her Girl Scout Gold Award and its requirements. She talks about recycling and the Ronald McDonald House charity. “I will continue to serve both locally and globally for as long as I’m able. I believe service is the key to a well-rounded and fulfilled life.”