

Profiles: Scholarship Grant Recipients

The Directors of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation, Inc. awarded scholarship grants to the following eight young people, and we are very proud to present their profiles. Their photographs appear in the historical record of our grant recipients. They can be found under the link labeled “Previous Awards” accessible from the home page. Judges for the 2009 competition were Earl E. Killen, Jerry B. Kraft, Thomas R. Maines, and Dr. Marco Montoya.

Christine Buchwald

Christine Buchwald is the recipient of the “Jerry Kraft and Gracie Potts Award Honoring LT General William G. Webster and LTC James Silva.” presented by the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Christine’s sponsor is her father, James E. Buchwald, who served with HHC and D Companies, 30th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division, in the late 1980s. Christine is pursuing a career in nursing at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. While participating in N.J.R.O.T.C., Christine achieved the rank of Ensign and was a drill commander and platoon leader in charge of 20 cadets. She also served as Administrative Assistant and Operations Officer. She holds a very high GPA, and her record of sports and community service is impressive. Christine plans to join the Peace Corps once she has achieved her nursing degree so she can provide help to those in need. In her essay, entitled “Patriotism in My Life,” Christine says, “Patriotism has been a part of my life always: two great grandfathers served in WW2, a grandfather served in Viet Nam, and my father served in military service for 20 years.” She wants to follow their example of serving America by helping people once she becomes a nurse. She sees nursing as a selfless service that would be “such a fulfilling way to exemplify my patriotic upbringing and dedication to those in need.” “Patriotism, to me, is having a love for one’s country and a willingness to serve it without any question.” She feels that her sense of dedication, instilled in her by the men closest to her heart, will carry her forward in her efforts to serve America.

Yuliya Harris

Yuliya Harris received the “Thomas R. Maines Award in Memory of SFC Ralph E. Rickenbacher” presented by the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Yuliya’s sponsor is her father, Edward T. Harris, who served with 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry in the early 1970s. Yuliya is majoring in biology and Russian at Wayne State University. Throughout high school, she maintained a high GPA and contributed much time to community service and fund-raising projects. She is a well-rounded athlete in the areas of swimming and field hockey and is the two-time recipient of both the “Scholar Athlete” award and the “Athena Award,” presented to students maintaining an A-average throughout four years of foreign language study. Toward her goal of becoming a doctor of osteopathy, Yuliya is a frequent volunteer at hospitals. In her essay entitled “Patriotism Redefined,” Yuliya describes the essence of America as “freedom under Democracy,” and she believes patriotism must be defined by each individual with the overriding control of the definition embodied in Lincoln’s quotation: “I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.” She believes this and that “personal aspirations define

patriotism for all of us, not just soldiers, policemen, and firemen who save lives and protect our freedom.” She is the perfect candidate to receive the Rickenbacher award, because Ralph E. Rickenbacher supported the same philosophies regarding patriotism. She, as did Rickenbacher, will serve American’s freedom under Democracy without question.

Daniel F. Moulton

Daniel F. Moulton is the recipient of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation grant. Dan’s sponsor is his father, Stanley K. Moulton, who served with Headquarters Battery, 39th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Division in the mid-1950s. Dan is a *cum laude* graduate of Indiana State University and is pursuing a dual graduate degree at Syracuse University in the International Relations Program and in Public Relations. Combined, these two degrees fall under the title, “Public Diplomacy.” Dan holds an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army where he served with the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska. In early life, Dan was an Eagle Scout. His one enduring sadness was that he was born too late in his parents’ lives to participate in the father-son trophy-winning exploits he remembered as part of his siblings’ lives. Then, one day, he saw an opportunity to capture the feeling he thought they had experienced. As he was completing Basic Training at Fort Benning, he encountered demolition debris littered on Sand Hill. When his parents attended Dan’s graduation from Basic Training, Dan took his father to the site of the debris. Stanley looked through the “last remaining vestiges of the place he had known as Sand Hill” and described the former scene as he remembered it. A bittersweet feeling came over Dan when his father selected a brick to take home to New Hampshire. Dan’s essay, entitled “Brick of the Marne,” is a moving and heartwarming story of father-son bonding through shared experience. After extensive military duty, Dan returned to his parents’ home where he was greeted by “a single, worn-down brick, with some mortar still caked on the sides.” “On the side, scrawled with permanent marker, read the words, ‘Ft. Ben’. A proud man had placed it there, for all who enter to see. . . It represented two legs of an ongoing relay, decades apart. I finally had a father and son trophy of my own, and it was a victory I will savor for ages to come.”

Christine M. Nussio

Christine M. Nussio is the recipient of the “Thomas W. Mason Old China Hand” Legacy Award, presented by the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Christine’s sponsor is her father, Col. Ricky J. Nussio, who served as a Major with the 3rd Infantry Division from 2001 to 2004, as the G3 Chief of Plans, Executive Officer of 1-64 Armor, and S3 of 2nd Brigade. Christine is majoring in history at Christendom College in support of her goal to become a writer of historical materials. Christine believes that “history books are our textbooks to the future. They show us how to achieve our purposes.” Currently she also serves as an associate editor for the campus newspaper. In high school and college Christine has achieved honors and awards in theology, history, literature, and English. She was also a National Merit Scholarship finalist, and in college she represented her section in the “Freshman Class Doctrine Bowl”—an honor bestowed based on grade point averages. Throughout her high school and college careers, Christine has maintained a very heavy schedule of community service while keeping her GPA in

the 3.9-range. Her essay, “Rock of the Marne at the Tigris and Euphrates,” covers the 3rd Infantry Division’s involvement from the beginning of operations in Kuwait during “Operation Desert Storm,” through “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” as the 3rd “rolled into Baghdad.” She ends her essay with a quotation from BG Lloyd Austin’s report closure, “Marne 66 out, Rock of the Marne. . . Tigris and Euphrates.” This is an excellent and moving account, and we are fortunate to capture it as an addition to the 3rd Infantry Division’s proud, recorded history.

James Shaw

James Shaw is the recipient of the Society of The 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation grant. As a veteran of the 3rd Infantry Division, 1-15, 3BDE, James served as his own sponsor. James holds a Bachelor Degree from Columbia State University where he maintained a very high G.P.A. and is currently enrolled in the graduate program at Florida State University, where he is seeking a Master Degree in mechanical engineering. James’s goal is to use his education to improve military vehicles in the hope of saving lives in the future. While James had eight years of service and planned to be a career soldier, his experiences while serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq prompted him to accept his Honorable Discharge so he could position himself to serve our military in another important way. His essay, “Project Chariot: What every Military Historian Should Know about Alaska,” covers the 1950s background of oil exploration, discovery of oil in Alaska, the opening of the Alaska Military Highway and the Distance Early Warning Line (DEW), and “Chariot”—a top-secret project. The stated purpose of “Chariot” was nuclear testing under guidelines: “human and animal life had to be protected and radiation fallout had to be contained. However, actual plans called for two 200-kiloton devices to be detonated to form a harbor in Northwest Alaska, but such an explosion would have released radiation. The proponents had overlooked Native Indian inhabitants nearby and ignored the slight 180-mile gap between Alaska and the Soviet Union, to which much outcry was heard. The plans were not carried out; the top-secret program was scrapped, and the land was returned to Alaska.” Soon, major oil companies moved to discover the largest oil reserve every found in North America. The aftermath “brought about many developments in Alaska: the Alaskan Pipeline, the DEW Line, . . . and most importantly, statehood.”

Anita Marie Syler

Anita Marie Syler is the recipient of the 2009 “James and Joan Strawn Award Honoring the 10th Engineers” presented by the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Anita’s sponsor is her father, James D. Syler, who served with the 3rd Infantry Division from 1988-1996 in Germany (I Co. 3rd Avn, 4th BDE, 3rd I.D.), the Persian Gulf (28th 3rd BDE, 3rd I.D.), and at Fort Benning (203rd 3rd BDE, 3rd I.D.). Anita is currently working toward a degree in pre-medicine at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, in support of her intention to become a surgeon. While in high school, Anita served as Co-president of Little Rock Central High School’s Student Congress team, which led to involvement in many community projects that she continues to support. In other volunteer positions, she worked with children and the elderly, and through her involvement in sports she continues to co-coach young girls in soccer. Particularly rewarding has been her work with young people and adults at the University of Arkansas

Medical School hospital. Her essay, "The Single Yellow Ribbon," researches the origin of the Yellow Ribbon and comments on the reactions of those who view it. She feels this reaction is somewhat universal as everyone immediately associates the ribbon with "respect and thankfulness to those who have served and are serving our country." Anita discovered the origin of the Yellow Ribbon through the American Folklife Center, *Library of Congress*, and determined that it "seems to have appeared in American folklore sometime in the mid-1950s." She states, "The principle idea behind the Yellow Ribbon. . . is that of desire for the return of a loved one." Since its origin, its meaning has evolved. Anita concludes that the yellow ribbon, today, is "a quiet reminder to those who take for granted and at times forget to respect the men and women who protect the freedoms that we so much enjoy today. . . They serve not only to protect our freedoms but also to secure our futures. Without our soldiers, we would not be able to drive down the highway and dream about what the next day holds."

Grace Tiezzi

Grace Tiezzi is the recipient of the "Thomas R. Maines Award in Honor of Forward Scout, PFC Wayne T. Alderson," presented by the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Grace's sponsor is her grandfather, Angelo J. Tiezzi, who served with the 3rd Infantry Division, E. Company and Headquarters 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment in 1952. Grace is currently studying at Fairfield University where her interests are centered in education with minors in Italian and Spanish. Her ultimate goal is to earn a Master Degree in education and teach at the elementary level. Her community service record is vast with more than 310 hours documented. Her certifications in life-guarding, water rescue, first aid, CPR, and the use of AED support her position as a swimming instructor at The School of Swimming in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. These efforts and others have led to recognition as a Southern Connecticut Conference Honor Athlete. Her essay, "Proud To Be An American," reflects her dedication to America and its people. She expresses gratitude to America for allowing women to have a "voice" which enables them to do or become anything they wish. She notes that America is relatively unique in this aspect and praises America for sending our troops to defend the freedoms of others. She recognizes the value of America's support when natural disasters occur, and she is proud of America's diversity in religion, race, traditions, and nationalities, which have "developed into an entirely unique culture with customs exclusive to the individual." Mostly, though, Grace is proud of our men and women in uniform who fight to preserve our freedoms. She ends her essay with the statement, "I am very proud of our country, not because of our landscapes or our democratic political system, but because of the citizens, who, for many different reasons, have made our country great."

Ethan Vail

Ethan Vail is the recipient of the "Terrence A. Smith Award in Memory of Sgt. Shaker T. Guy," presented by the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Ethan's sponsor is his maternal grandfather, William H. Harris, who served with the 3rd Infantry Division Military Police, in the mid-1950s. Ethan is currently studying theatre at Purdue University in support of his desire to become a drama and theatre teacher at the secondary education level. His record of extracurricular activities while in high school is impressive but pales when compared to his community service record. Ethan served as

Church Acolyte for 13 years, Eucharistic Minister for four years, and as a mission team member to Monterrey, Mexico, twice. Further, he volunteered at the Main Street Theatre for three years: two of those years as Assistant Director. While these activities were very time consuming, Ethan did not allow anything to interrupt his volunteer work, over a 12-year period, with the Special Olympics. Ethan explains in his essay, "A True Patriot," that a true patriot is not necessarily just a person who flies the flag, serves in the armed forces, or shows pride in his or her country. A true patriot may also be "an actor, a teacher, a police officer, and many other people that live their lives, always doing the best they can for their country." Ethan's essay explains how each of these individuals can be a true patriot. Based on how we live our lives and support our soldiers and others working to protect our freedoms, we can all be patriots. Ethan concludes his excellent essay with "True patriots come in many shapes, sizes, and professions, and they are all around us. . . All we have to do is look around us to recognize their patriotic support of our country and its people. The true patriot projects a positive and uplifting influence among us."