



LAUNCH YOUR SUPPORT

FALL 2024



Veterans United Foundation Scholar William Buyske
with his parents, Matthew & Kelly



Distinguished Advisors

ADM Bill Gortney, USN, Ret.
ADM Tim Keating, USN, Ret.
VADM David Architzel, USN, Ret.
Mr. John Griffing

Board of Directors

VADM Denby Starling, USN, Ret.
Chairperson

RDML Richard Butler, USN, Ret.
Dollar Tree

RADM Gregory Fenton, USN, Ret.
Vice Chairperson

CAPT Robert Geis, USN, Ret.
City of Chesapeake

Mark Haller
Tri-Tec Manufacturing

Sybil Holmes
Director

CMC Raymond Kemp, USN, Ret.
Director

VADM Chip Miller, USN, Ret.
HII/Newport News Shipbuilding

Deidre Myers
Director

CAPT Wade McConvey, USN, Ret.
KBR

CAPT Jeffrey McKenzie, USN, Ret.
RBC Inc.

CDR Corry Juedeman Prestidge,
USN, Ret.
First Command Financial

CDR Ken Shook, USN, Ret.
Treasurer / First Command Financial

Amanda Verissimo
Director

770 Lynnhaven Pkwy, Ste 155
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757-228-3314
info@woasf.org | woasf.org

Wings Over America Scholarship
Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
organization.

Federal Tax ID# 54-1846969

Spotlight on Leadership: **Raymond Kemp**, Board of Directors



Raymond Kemp's journey to becoming a board member of Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation (WOASF) is steeped in decades of dedication, leadership, and a commitment to serving others. As a former Fleet Master Chief of the U.S. Navy, his career was one of sustained excellence, serving over 55,000 personnel in Europe and Africa. In his role, he focused on supporting mission accomplishment while enhancing the quality of life for sailors under his leadership.

Reflecting on his naval service, Raymond's fondest memories come from his time aboard USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75) where he served as the Command Master Chief. The ship's crew embodied a philosophy of "WE Not ME," a mindset that empowered them to perform at the highest level. "The hard work and determination of that ship had a profound impact on global peace during a critical time," he recalls. For him, those experiences helped solidify his belief in the power of teamwork and collective responsibility, values he continues to champion.

Upon retiring from the Navy, CMC Kemp transitioned seamlessly into entrepreneurship, founding Kemp Solutions, a leadership development firm. His company specializes in transforming solid performers into exceptional leaders, a natural continuation of his lifelong commitment to leadership.

Raymond's involvement with WOASF began through an invitation from Herm Shelanski, a long-time colleague and friend from his time aboard the *USS Independence* and the *USS Truman*. Their shared experiences and mutual respect brought Kemp to WOASF, where he continues to give back by helping to further the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation mission.

"I wholeheartedly support WOASF and its mission because education is the foundation upon which future leaders are built. By honoring the service of Navy aviation families through educational scholarships, we are not only investing in individual success but also in the strength and resilience of our military community. It's a privilege to contribute to a legacy that empowers the next generation to excel, lead, and continue the tradition of service."

"Securing the Wings Over America Scholarship is important to me on two levels. The first level is financial. The funds are going to be helpful with covering the expenses for my first year at Vanderbilt University, as it is an extremely expensive school.

But even more importantly is the connection this gives me to my father. My dad flew F/A 18's and served as a naval aviator during the Gulf War before I was born. Three years ago, my father died suddenly of a heart attack. This loss was devastating to our family, and I was heartbroken. This scholarship brings him into my college journey in a way that is very personal and meaningful. I am grateful to have this level of connection to my father's service and that it will serve to help me achieve my educational goals."

Louis Whitehead
2024 Navy Federal Credit Union Scholar



CHANGE MAKERS

Staying connected with scholarship winners after their academic journey has ended is a rewarding experience for WOASF. By maintaining these relationships, our scholarship program not only witnesses the tangible outcomes of their investments but also creates a network of success stories that inspire future candidates. As our recipients transition from college into their professional lives, their achievements often reflect the foundation laid by the scholarship support. We are able to continue celebrating the ongoing achievements and successes of these scholars. Doing so reinforces the tremendous value of this program, and the opportunities that it provides to the Naval Aviation Community.



Sean Jolly was a four-time Wings Over America scholarship recipient. He began his postsecondary career during the beginning of COVID in 2020 opting to spend his first year at Tidewater Community College where he took his general education courses though he had his eye on an engineering degree. The following year he transferred to the University of Virginia and excelled in his coursework. After graduating from UVA in May with degrees in Aerospace Engineering and Astronomy, Sean began an internship with Firefly Aerospace located in Austin, Texas where he worked on "Blue Ghost" the company's lunar lander. Firefly has since hired Sean to work full-time as an Electrical Engineer.

"I know I couldn't have made it here without the support of donors and staff of Wings Over America. Thank you!"



After receiving the Raytheon and USS Carl Vinson scholarships in 2017, **Tatiana Montes** began her college career at William & Mary where she double majored in accounting and psychology. She then finished her master's in accounting program in 2022. In the fall of 2023, she was awarded her CPA License in the state of Virginia and began preparation as an auditor in a Big 4 accounting firm. She has since returned to the Virginia Beach area with a new position working for a firm that works on accounting, auditing, and consulting for churches and ministries across the country.

"I still find myself incredibly connected to my history of being a military dependent. Again, please accept my deepest gratitude for all you have done and continue to do."

Brothers **Jason and Nash Euman** have both been recipients of Wings Over America and Theodore Roosevelt Association scholarships. Their mother, Dawn, provided an update on both of her sons since they have graduated from college.

Jason graduated from Shenandoah University in 2021 with his Bachelor of Arts in Business with a Sport Management concentration. Then in 2022 he graduated from the University of Alabama with his Master in Kinesiology with a concentration in Sport Administration. He currently works at Tulane University in New Orleans where he is an Assistant Director of Facilities and Event Management in the athletic department.

Nash graduated summa cum laude in 2024 from Virginia Tech with his Bachelor of Science in architecture. He currently works at HBA Architecture and Interior Design in Richmond. He started working in the Virginia Beach office during his sophomore year in high school; he is happy to be full time with them as a recent graduate.

"Both Jason and Nash are working in the fields they chose way back when they applied for scholarships, and we are happy to report that neither son has any college debt! We are so grateful for the support of Wings Over America in helping them realize their dreams!" wrote Dawn (shown right with husband, Tim, Jason and Nash)





2024 RECIPIENTS

COLLEGE

Jackson Adams
Pratt & Whitney Scholar

Lauren Adams
USS Enterprise Scholar

Andrew Albus
VADM Mike & Peg
Shoemaker Scholar

Kathleen Bishop
Tri-Tec Manufacturing
Scholar

Ava Boston*
Founders Scholar

Hannah Carmen
Raytheon Scholar

Eliana Durkee*
CAPT Brad Johnanson, USN
(Ret.) Memorial Scholar

Delaney Estes
Abby Furco Memorial Scholar

Madison Hanrahan
The Boeing Company Scholar

Benjamin Harms*
Turk Green Memorial Scholar

Brice Howe
The Wingman Foundation:
Aircrew of Lion 43 Scholar

Ashley Huddleston
VADM Michael & Janet
Malone Scholar

Cole Hudson*
WOASF Volunteers-West
Scholar

Cassidy Lennard
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
Scholar

Audrey Litkowski
The Wingman Foundation:
LT Hyrum Hanlon Memorial
Scholar

Zachary McGrath
Navy Federal Credit Union
Scholar

Joseph Neill
Wings Over America Scholar

Davin Phinney
RADM Jack Godlewski
Memorial Scholar

Griffin Schager
First Command Educational
Foundation Scholar

Vivian Schmidt
The Wingman Foundation:
Aircrew of Blackbird 207
Memorial Scholar

Ella Simone
John & Karen Griffing Scholar

Julia Stevenson*
WOASF Fallen Heroes
Scholar

Daniel Ulrich*
Ross & Deidre Myers
Scholar

Greer Worley
Newport News Shipbuilding
Scholar

Jamie Zinsmeyer*
Wendell & Doris Rogers
Scholar

HIGH SCHOOL

Jillian Belflower
VADM Jim & Kathie Zortman
Scholar

Samuel Boyle
VADM Richard "SweetPea"
Allen Scholar

*Denotes Renewable Scholar

William Buyske
Veterans United Foundation
Scholar

Seth Fisher
The Wingman Foundation:
Aircrew of Loosefoot 616
Memorial Scholar

Jennesa Gonzalez
Northrop Grumman Scholar

Catherine Gregory
Padres Foundation: Randy
Jones Scholar

Olivia Hamilton
Pratt & Whitney Scholar

Thomas Hamrick
VADM Chip & Ellen Miller
Scholar

Carolyn Harris
Wings Over America
Scholar

Abigail Johnson
2 Circle Incorporated
Scholar

Owen Jungblut
The Wingman Foundation:
LT Nathan Poloski Memorial
Scholar

Gwendolyn Moore*
WOASF Volunteers-East
Scholar

Allison Orchard-Hays*
LT Paul R. Fridley Memorial
Scholar

Allison Pianetta
Wings Over America
Scholar

Tyler Pottenburgh
Lockheed Martin
Aeronautics Scholar

Jacob Pollard
The Wingman Foundation:
LT Richard "Max" Bullock
Memorial Scholar

Olivia Pottenburgh
Wings Over America
Scholar

Alexander Renier
Scholars Take Flight Scholar

Connor Richards
Wings Over America
Scholar

Erin Runkle*
Irwin & Frankie Edenzon
Scholar

Luke Steinbicker
Sean "Wolfey" DeWolfe
Scholar

Benjamin Stickney
CAVU Construction Scholar

Calliope Warren
Wings Over America
Scholar

Louis Whitehead
Navy Federal Credit Union
Scholar

Keira Woods
Tailhook Scholar

SPOUSES

Cori Kindig-Evans
Wings Over America
Scholar

Victoria Ilomuanya
VADM Chip & Ellen Miller
Scholar

Ashley Whitelaw
WOASF Volunteers Scholar

OUR **2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS** HAIL FROM 18
DIFFERENT STATES, SHOWCASING A DIVERSE ARRAY OF
EXPERIENCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

WOASF BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



For over a decade Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation has built partnerships with other Navy aviation foundations and commands to administer their scholarship programs. Current scholarship partners include the Maritime Patrol Association, the Theodore Roosevelt Association and WVOSA - the VAW/VRC Merit Scholarship Foundation. By fostering strong partnerships with organizations such as these, we can enhance support networks and resources, ensuring that more military dependents receive the assistance and opportunities they need. In 2024 these administered scholarship partners awarded over \$70,000 in scholarships to deserving students. Additionally, through partnerships with these organizations, 11 of our 52 WOASF recipients also received scholarships from our administered partners.

In the spring of 2020, Wings Over America began awarding Navy Aviation Memorial Scholarships with funding provided by **The Wingman Foundation**. Their mission is to *honor the sacrifices of our fallen air warriors and support the families they've left behind*. They are an all-volunteer, veteran-founded non-profit organization dedicated to providing immediate post-mishap support for the Navy and Marine Corps Aviation communities and their families. This year The Wingman Foundation asked WOASF to administer memorial scholarships to Marine Corps aviation dependents, and in May, six (6) Marine Corps dependents were awarded \$5,000 scholarships to help fund their post-secondary education.

Emily DeMieri, Cpl Jordan L. Spears Memorial Scholar
Sydney Engel, SSgt Thomas J. Dudley Memorial Scholar
Stephanie Gonzalez, Aircrew of Swift 11-VMM 364 Memorial Scholar:
Capt John Sax, Capt Nicholas Losapio, Cpl Seth Rasmuson, Cpl Nathan Carlson, and LCpl Evan Strickland
Abigail Kolbe, Aircrew of Sumo 41 Memorial Scholar:
Lt Col Kevin Herrmann, Maj James Michael Brophy, SSgt Maximo Flores, Cpl Carter Ross, and Cpl Daniel Baker
Chloe Leffler, Capt Jake "Red Stripe" Frederick Memorial Scholar
Evan Thompson, Aircrew of Vengeance 01 Memorial Scholar:
Capt Dustin Lukasiewicz, Capt Christopher Norgren, Sgt Ward Johnson IV, Sgt Eric Seaman, Cpl Sara Medina and LCpl Jacob Hug.



"Receiving this scholarship only intensifies the pride I feel towards my family and our connection to the military. From early childhood I've learned to adapt to change due to the mobile lifestyle that comes with being raised in a military family, and to me this scholarship commemorates that. This scholarship recognizes the many sacrifices that military families make."
 ~Emily DeMieri



Allison Pianetta from Anacortes, WA
 WOASF, MPA & TRA scholar

"I cannot express enough gratitude to the donors and administration for their encouragement and support of the dependents of those that serve. These scholarships allow me the flexibility to focus on my education, passions, and goals with less financial burden to bear."



Caroline Harris from Keller, TX
 WOASF & VAW-VRC Scholar

"I am immensely grateful for the community of naval aviation, as it has helped me to become the person I am today. I am also so thankful for these scholarships as they will help me pursue my undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University."



Andrew Albus from Corpus Christi, TX
 WOASF & MPA Scholar

"I can't begin to express my appreciation for your organizations. I hope to one day make an impact on others the way Wings Over America and the Maritime Patrol Association have made an impact on me. Pass it on."



Top L to R: Trenton (TJ), Carson and Tamara
Bottom L to R: Cheyanne and Cassidy

The **Lennard Family** from Basehor, Kansas knows the impact of the high cost of tuition. With four children attending college, scholarships have been a valuable way to help reduce the financial burden of tuition and other expenses. Three of their children have been the recipient of WOASF scholarships.

Carson, a 2020 recipient, graduated this past May from University of Kansas with his Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering. He accepted a job with Matador Resources Company based out of Dallas, Texas. He is currently employed as an Operational Engineer with Matador Resources and works in their New Mexico field office.

Their oldest daughter and 2022 recipient, **Cheyenne**, is a nursing major at Baylor University. A current junior, she hopes to graduate in May 2026 with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Cassidy, their youngest daughter, was selected for a second time as a WOASF recipient and is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, Stout. She is studying mechanical engineering with a minor in mathematics. Through hard work and determination, she was a USGA Level 10 gymnast in high school and now is a collegiate gymnast.

Their mother, Tamara, told WOASF, *"Wings Over America has been so beneficial to us in providing scholarship money for three of the kids their freshman years which made a huge difference in what we owed for each. We are very grateful for the financial assistance. Three in college at one time was hard."*

WOASF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"Without the generosity of Wings Over America, none of this would have been possible. We are all very thankful, blessed and honored to be a part of such an amazing organization! Thank you from The Estes!" The family's three children, Hunter, Jordan and Delaney have all received multiple scholarships from the Foundation. Marie Estes, their mother, shared an update on them.

Hunter was a two-year recipient who graduated with Honors from Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service in 2019. He first worked for the Mississippi Center for Public Policy and then three years as the Communications Director for the Governor of Mississippi. Newly married in October, Hunter and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Estes, moved to Northern Mississippi where he is currently the Communications Director for the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a Think Tank located in Washington D.C.

Jordan was awarded the WOASF Volunteers-East renewable scholarship in May 2020. She graduated Cum Laude from Baylor University, in the Honors College/University Scholars Program this past May of 2024. While there, she was awarded the coveted Baylor Outstanding Service Chair Award as well as the Outstanding Student Organization in Community Service for her work as the Head of the March of Dimes. She was accepted to and began the Physician Assistant program at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston this past June.

Delaney is a two-time scholarship recipient and the current Abby Furco Memorial Scholar. She was at Mississippi State University for the first two years in Early Childhood Education with a 4.0. Delaney just transferred to Virginia Tech for her junior and senior years to continue her education degree. Recently, she was invited to join the Education Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi and has already been awarded a teaching position in Virginia Beach upon graduation.

Congratulations to all three Estes siblings on their college successes!



Hunter Estes



Jordan Estes



Delaney Estes

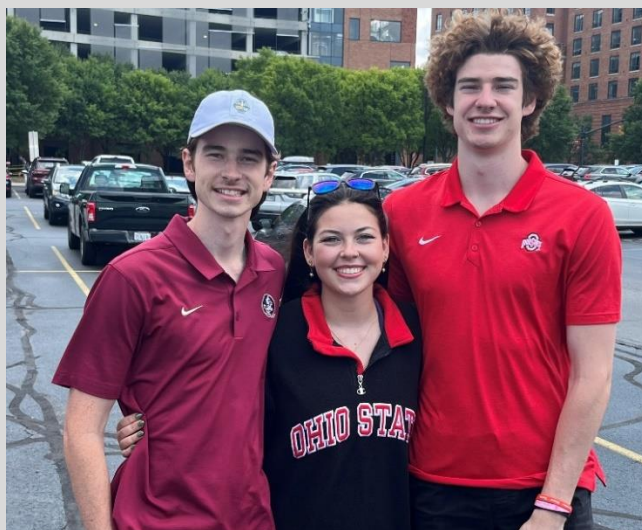
For families with multiple children in college, scholarships can be a game-changer. Balancing the costs of tuition, books, and living expenses for several children can be a daunting challenge for families, and scholarships can ease this burden considerably. With twins Olivia and Owen joining their older brother, Tyler, the Pottenburgh family now has three children in college at the same time.

Matt and Laura Pottenburgh told WOASF, "We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation and the Maritime Patrol Association for awarding scholarships to our children. Your support not only eases our financial burden but also encourages them to work hard and pursue their dreams and education with passion. Thank you for believing in our children and investing in their future. Your generosity truly makes a difference!"

Tyler is a three-year WOASF and four-year MPA recipient and is now in his final year at Florida State University. A Communications and IT major, Tyler has been active on campus in intramural sports, as a member of the Information Communication & Technology Graphic Design Club, and in the Florida State Department of Athletics as the Lead Creative Content Intern. "Heading into my senior year of college at Florida State University is very frightening; however, with the support of this scholarship, I am able to relax knowing that others believe in me and my dreams."

Olivia, a freshman at Ohio State University, is majoring in biology with a minor in forensic science. "I cannot even begin to describe how grateful I am to have been selected for this opportunity to make my family proud and to one day make a bigger difference in my community,"

Owen is at the University of Mary Washington. Owen is majoring in Biology and will be playing on the UMW Eagles basketball team. I cannot express my gratitude for this scholarship strongly enough. "The funds will not be wasted because I am dedicated to being the best student-athlete I can be, so when I enter the workforce, I will be prepared and equipped to make a difference every day."



Tyler, Olivia, and Owen Pottenburgh



WOASF Recipients Moved onto Campus

As the new semester began, campuses buzzed with excitement as students moved back onto college grounds. Amid the flurry of unpacking and settling in, there was an undeniable sense of optimism. We asked our recipients to share their "moving in" experiences and photos. All of us at Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation hope they are looking forward to the opportunities and adventures the new academic year will bring.

Left: Abigail Johnson (U of Oklahoma), Calliope Warren (Coastal Carolina) and Jacob Pollard (Liberty U)



Above (left to right): Julia Strassberger, (VA Tech), Keira Woods (Penn State), Gwen Moore with her father (VA Tech), and Seth Fisher (Florida Atlantic U)

Right: Lauren Adams (Washington U in St. Louis), Sam Boyle (William & Mary), Erin Runkle (Marywood U)



NEWSFRONT

The spring and summer were bustling times for our foundation, filled with exciting events from golf tournaments, basket auctions and recognition ceremonies that brought the community together. Mark your calendars for upcoming activities and join us in making a difference this season!

- May 31, 2024: Annual Coronado Golf Tournament in at Sea `N Air Golf Course .
- May 31, 2024: WOASF Scholarship Presentation at The IBar, NAS North Island.
- June 6, 2024: WOASF Scholarship Reception at Sewells Point Golf Club, Norfolk, VA.
- June 8, 2024: East Coast Basket Auction at Voodoo Brewing in Virginia Beach, VA.
- June 14, 2024: Annual WOASF Golf Tournament at NAS Oceana Golf Club.
- August 4, 2024: Salute to the Military at PETCO park where Cate Gregory received the Randy Jones scholarship sponsored by the San Diego Padres Foundation
- August 30, 2024: Scholarship Season Takeoff Event at Warriors Taphouse in VA Beach.
- October 1, 2024: Scholarship Season Opens
- October 11, 2024: WOASF PAX River Golf Tournament at Cedar Point Golf Course.
- December 3, 2024: Giving Tuesday "Chalk it Up for Charity"
- February 1, 2025: Pre-Qualification Submission Deadline
- February / March 2025: TBD "Cocktails & Culture" Charity Auction in Virginia Beach
- March 1, 2025: Application Submission Deadline
- April 4, 2025: Annual Charity Golf Event at Sewell's Point Golf Club in Norfolk, VA
- Spring 2025: Annual WOASF Golf Tournament-Coronado.



"The military has been a strong backbone for my family, and I am grateful for the many years that my dad served our nation as a Naval Flight Officer. Thank you to everyone at WOASF for the generosity of this scholarship which will provide me the opportunity to achieve my dreams and help make the world a better place."

Allison Orchard-Hays
LT Paul R Fridley Memorial Scholar



"This scholarship will allow me to completely dedicate myself to my studies and to being a division one athlete, and therefore I cannot express my gratitude for this award and community enough. Without a doubt, however, I am most honored in receiving this award due to my father's sacrifices for this country. My father along with the rest of the naval aviation community have taught me the true meaning of being a part of something so much greater than yourself."

Ashley Huddleston
VADM Michael & Janet Malone Scholar



"After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno in May 2024, I moved back home to Anacortes. I started work recently as a registered nurse at a local hospital on an orthopedic-surgical unit. I am very grateful and excited to start this new journey in my life and career!"

Makenzie Wakefield
Three-time WOASF Recipient 2021, 2022 & 2023

