



HONORING THE SERVICE OF NAVY AVIATION FAMILIES THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS *FALL 2023*

Every year the cost of continuing education after high school increases. This makes postsecondary education seemingly impossible for many students who are looking at their future careers. This is especially difficult for Navy families, many of whom rely on just one income, to fund college or certification programs for family members working toward their career goals. Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation (WOASF) is making educational dreams attainable for U.S. Navy aviation dependents. In 2023, the Foundation, along with its administered scholarship partners, proudly awarded deserving students \$346,000. WOASF offers scholarships to high school seniors and current college or technical school students which makes a difference for Navy families with multiple children fulfilling academic pursuits.

The **Gardella** family from Fleming Island, FL found success in receiving Wings Over America and Maritime Patrol Association scholarships. Their daughters, Mason, Isabelle, and Anna were awarded five WOASF and eight MPA scholarships in total since 2016. Father, CDR Dave Gardella, USN (Ret.), spent his career in the Patrol and Reconnaissance community.

Mason completed her undergraduate degree at Sewanee: The University of the South. She is now finishing her final year of Dental School at University of Louisville and will graduate in May 2024. Mason is planning on being a family dentist in the future. Additionally, she got married this past December. *"I am blessed to have a father and mother who taught me what service to others means, and I am grateful for organizations like WOASF and MPA that do exactly that!"*

Isabelle, having received one WOASF scholarship and three MPA scholarships, graduated from Georgia Southern University with a degree in Business Management and Human Resource Management. She currently resides in Atlanta, GA and is an account executive with AJC Logistics, where she sells and manages transportation or logistics needs for customers.

Anna is a senior at Florida State University where she expects to achieve a bachelor's degree in management. As an active member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, she has found many lifelong friends as well as great opportunities to participate in philanthropic activities. She is a volunteer team leader for the second time for the student-led Dance Marathon at FSU which has raised a total of over \$1.5 million for Shands Children's Hospital. She feels this scholarship has provided her with opportunities to further her education and continue to grow as a person as well as contribute to the cost of attending college.



From left to Right: Isabelle, Mason, Anna Gardella



Kristina and Alexandra Boone

"Having the chance to receive this scholarship has given me more motivation to continue to work hard and maintain my academic success. It also makes me happy to know that I can contribute to easing the burden of the cost of my education for my parents." ~Alexandra

The **Boone** family has daughters who have been multiple year recipients. ABESC Christopher Boone USN (Ret.) spent his career on aircraft carriers including USS Theodore Roosevelt, USS Enterprise, and USS Gerard R. Ford. He and his wife Martina currently reside in Norfolk, VA.

Kristina received the "Turk Green Memorial" scholarship in 2018. This four-year renewable scholarship honors CAPT John "Turk" Green's steadfast support of educational opportunities for military families. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2022 with a degree in Health, Physical Education & Exercise Science while competing on the varsity indoor and outdoor track & field teams. Kristina currently works for a dermatologist in Hampton Roads as a Medical Assistant and will be applying to Physician Assistant programs this winter. She hopes to attend Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Alexandra received the USS Theodore Roosevelt FRG scholarship in May of 2023. A freshman at Virginia Commonwealth University, she is studying business and marketing. While in high school, Alexandra was President and Vice president of the YMCA Leaders Club, captain of the varsity track & field team and played basketball. After Alexandra completes her undergraduate work, she plans to seek a Masters of Sports Management and one day be a presence in professional sports.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VADM Denby Starling, USN, Ret.
Chair

CAPT Steve Brennan, USN, Ret.
Emeritus Director

RDML Richard Butler, USN, Ret.
Dollar Tree

RADM Greg Fenton, USN, Ret.
Director

CAPT Robert Geis, USN, Ret.
City of Chesapeake

Mark Haller
Tri-Tec Manufacturing

Sybil Holmes
Director

CMC Raymond Kemp, USN, Ret.
Director

CAPT Wade McConvey, USN, Ret.
KBR

CAPT Jeffrey McKenzie, USN, Ret.
RBC Inc.

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

Deidre Myers
Director

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

CDR Ken Shook, USN, Ret.
First Command Financial

DISTINGUISHED ADVISORS

ADM Bill Gortney, USN, Ret.
ADM Tim Keating, USN, Ret.
RADM Dave Architzel, USN, Ret.
Mr. John Griffing

STAFF

Andrea Meinicke Diamond
Executive Director

Melissa Garrison
Scholarship Administrator



"I believe supporting young people in achieving their education goals is one of the best ways to contribute to the success of our Country."
~Rich Butler, RDML, USN (Ret.)

WOASF Supporting Navy Families

CAPT (Ret.) Michael and Marta **McClintock's** two children have received a total of three WOASF and MPA scholarships. Both are current students at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Marta McClintock told Wings Over America, *"These scholarships have made an incredible difference in our kids' lives. The financial benefit is huge, but there is also the intangible benefit of knowing that people in the military community you grew up in believe in you and are committed to your success."*

Lauren is a sophomore and a two-time recipient who is majoring in History and Comparative Literature & Classical Studies. She is in her sixth year of competitive sailing, most recently taking part in several regattas on the West Coast. As a female skipper as well as a member of both the co-ed and women's racing teams, Lauren is currently working as Recruitment Officer for both teams but has a special interest in engaging women in the sport.

William received his first scholarships this spring as a high school senior. He completed Harvard's CS50 online class during COVID which gave him the skillset to make websites, GPA calculators, food trackers, and more. He has been swimming competitively his entire life, including competing and winning in sectional and regional championships.



CJ and Maggie Reed

The Reeds have received a total of three WOASF and three VAW/VRC Merit scholarships. CAPT William Reed, USN (Ret.) spent most of his US Navy time in the VAW/VRC community. He and his wife, Heather, currently live in Virginia Beach.

Since graduating from James Madison University with a Qualitative Finance Major in 2022, **CJ** has been working for a small wealth management firm based out of Van Wert Ohio. He spends his days managing portfolios, meeting with clients, and developing educational materials for 401(k) participants. He recently got married in June of 2023 and he and his wife live in Virginia Beach.

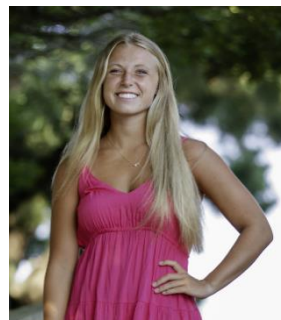
Maggie has received one Wings Over America scholarship and one VAW/VRC Merit scholarship. She is a current sophomore Secondary Math Education at Illinois State University where she is on the cross country and track teams. While in high school, she was active in Young Life and Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well as part of the Virginia Teachers of Tomorrow program.

The Royle Sisters Honor Their Parents



Emily Royle
2022 WOASF Scholar

"I have watched the sacrifices my father made to ensure all of us enjoy our many freedoms, and I work every day to make him and my mom proud. I intend to make WOASF equally proud. Thank you again for your generosity in helping young adults like me worry a little less while being able to do a lot more to help others."



Kathryn Royle
2023 WOASF Scholar

"This scholarship is particularly meaningful because it is the best way, I know to thank my parents for everything they have done. My Dad served for 26 years in the Navy, and he and my mom made many sacrifices along the way to ensure I was able to succeed as a student and an athlete."

PROUD SUPPORTERS: Why WOASF?

Bob "Goose" Geis, CAPT, USN (Ret.)
Deputy City Manager, City of Chesapeake
WOASF Board of Directors

Many of us have spent our lives serving others. For many of us it is a calling and a way of life. Our time in the Navy shaped us and helped us to become who we are today. I flew S-3 Vikings for the majority of my flying career and then was fortunate to command the first East Coast Super Hornet squadron (VFA-211) on the first deployment of the Super Hornet from the East Coast in 2006. I know the challenges that moving and deploying brings to families. When we moved to Virginia Beach, my oldest child was starting 9th grade, and it was his 9th school. Wings Over America is an organization that honors our families in a special way, and I am honored to be associated with Wings Over America.

You may ask why? I reply, why not? I can't think of a better organization to be associated with, and I can't think of a better goal than to "honor the service of Navy aviation families through educational scholarships."

My first introduction to this organization was when I was the Executive Assistant at AIRLANT in 2007. It was a much smaller organization but was amazingly dedicated to helping those associated with Naval Aviation to better their families through education. My initial involvement was helping with the annual golf tournament. After I retired from Active Duty, my former boss asked me to join the Board of Directors. Since I had a gap in my association with the organization, I was truly amazed to discover just how much the organization grew. The Scholarship Foundation now gives out over 50 scholarships each year!

I am excited to be a part of an organization whose sole purpose is to give to the families of Naval Aviation. I remain amazed at the accomplishments of hardworking volunteers and small number of dedicated employees of the Foundation. Not only do I donate my time to the board's meetings and activities and partake in the fun of the golf tournament and auction; I give a monthly donation to the Foundation. I found this to be an easy way to continue to support such a worthy organization and I intend to continue this practice. It is easy and a no-brainer!



"We feel WOASF is a great organization with a team of fantastic volunteers who are committed to the mission. Having three kids that have gone through college years ago, we know and appreciate the importance of scholarships. Being involved in WOASF to get the word out for future college students is very important to us."

CAPT Tom "TP" & Donna Phelan, USN (Ret.)
Former WOASF Board Member & Unwavering Volunteers

After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1979, Tom went to flight school, getting his wings in 1981. He was assigned to VA-196 to fly the A-6 Intruder out of Whidbey Island, WA. He then went to Patuxent River, MD for Test Pilot School followed by a tour in Japan with VA-115 on USS MIDWAY. The remainder of his career had Tom and Donna moving back and forth between PAX River and Whidbey Island finishing his career at PAX River in VX-23, a Program Office, and at the Test Wing. Tom retired in 2005 after 27 years of service.

His best memory of his time in the Navy was as the XO/CO of VAQ-140 Patriots, an EA-6B squadron at Whidbey Island. The opportunity to lead a fantastic group of sailors and aircrew through workups and deployments is something he will never forget. After retirement, Tom and Donna stayed in Patuxent River where Tom worked as a Program Manager for Wyle (now KBR) and as a defense contractor supporting the Test & Evaluation mission at NAVAIR.

Donna didn't know what to expect when she became a Navy spouse. She hadn't grown up in a military family and had never moved around. She began as a young, inexperienced Navy wife, who grew into a confident, self-assured woman through all the experiences and opportunities Navy life gave her over 26 years. As the Commanding Officer's Wife at the end of Tom's career, being part of the squadron's spouses' club was truly rewarding as she helped the younger spouses along the way with encouragement and a helping hand. And as Donna said, "The parties were fun!"

Living in Atsugi, Japan holds her fondest memories of those days. Learning about Japanese culture was rewarding for them. Donna taught English to Japanese housewives while the kids learned about the culture of Japan through friends and school. The Phelans lived in town where young Japanese students would visit to practice their English; sometimes with the English written on their hands.

Tom first learned about WOASF from a fellow A-6/F-18 pilot at PAX River who was on the Board of Directors. He convinced Tom to get involved with the golf tournament. A position on the Board and Pax River Golf Tournament coordinator followed shortly after! Donna became involved initially helping to pick up donations for the WOASF PAX golf tournament. This year, Donna took on a larger role leading the contacting of community members and collecting donations.

Settled in the Patuxent River, MD area, the Phelans enjoy many visits with their kids & grandkids in Maryland, San Diego, and Northeast Colorado. They often travel to Virginia Beach and Coronado to attend WOASF events, where they bring family members and see many old friends. Besides spending time at the golf course, Tom also enjoys car shows with his 1928 Ford Model T pick-up truck and cruising around in his 1977 Corvette. Meanwhile, Donna spends time crafting and planning family events complete with her signature designed themed decorations.

PAX River Golf Tournament: Golfing for Scholars!



Andy Loesch, a WOASF scholarship recipient from Leonardtown, MD, and his father, Matt, joined us for the day.

With 115 golfers, including several scholar parents, participating in the tournament at Cedar Point Golf Course this Friday the 13th in October proved to be lucky for some, and fun for all! Thanks to the generous support of the golfers, local businesses, and corporate sponsors \$12,500 was raised for the scholarship program. We can't think of a better way to celebrate the 248th Birthday of the U.S. Navy.

Not only were there nearly double the number of golfers, but also, we were thrilled to have several spouses join us as volunteers for the day. We could not have done it without them!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!



Want to get involved and join the team?

WOASF is successful because of its volunteers. They are the life's blood of the organization. Our volunteers make our events run smoothly, assist in the scholarship selection process, and help in every facet when needed. If you are interested in helping with an event, social media, tech issues or in our office, please email us at info@woasf.org. Visit our website for more information.



"The meaning of this scholarship to me also goes far beyond any monetary value. Having moved eight times before the age of 15 and watching my father leave for numerous six-plus month deployments, it is not only encouraging but gives me a great sense of gratitude and appreciation to know that this foundation supports furthering the education of service men and women's families." ~Gabe Holmes, 2023 RADM Jack Godlewski Memorial Scholar with Mrs. Pat Godlewski, Named Scholarship Donor



It's not just a scholarship. It's the past, the present, and the future!

To Donate, kindly scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, visit our website or send a check to the address below.

WINGS OVER AMERICA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
770 LYNNHAVEN PKWY, STE 155, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452
WWW.WOASF.ORG | 757-228-3314