



Veterans United Foundation Scholar

Lydia Wilkinson

Lansing, Michigan

Sponsor: CDR Jason Wilkinson

College: University of Michigan

2025-2026: Freshman

Major: User Experience Design

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Walking Club
- National Honors Society
- Marching Band & Pep Band Member
- Capital Area Humane Society Volunteer
- League of Women Voters Volunteer
- Turn Up Activism Volunteer



Receiving the 2025 Wings Over America Scholarship means so much more to me than just financial support—it feels like a recognition of my journey and the values my military family has instilled in me. When I was little, my dad was deployed to Afghanistan for a year, and after that, he traveled to Africa for two weeks each year. I always called these trips his "Navy job," not fully understanding at the time how important and selfless his work was. Even though it was hard having him gone, those experiences taught me resilience, independence, and a deep respect for service. Growing up in a military family shaped who I am today, and it showed me the true meaning of commitment, sacrifice, and strength.

I am excited to attend the University of Michigan this fall to study User Experience Design. I am passionate about creating digital spaces that are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for everyone. Thanks to this scholarship, I can fully focus on my education and dreams without the heavy burden of financial stress. I am incredibly grateful to Wings Over America for supporting students like me and honoring the sacrifices military families make. I am proud to carry forward the spirit of service, perseverance, and community into my future.