USS Gerald R Ford Scholar

Cole Peterson

Virginia Beach, VA

Sponsor: CDR John C Peterson Jr

College: Duke University

2026-2027: Freshman

Major: Economics & Mathematics

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Varsity and Club Tennis Teams
- Investment Club, Co-Founder & Vice President
- Game Theory Club, Co-Founder & President
- Senior Class Cabinet, Events Chair
- National Honor Society, Fundraising Chair
- Employed at Shorebreak Pizza and Taphouse
- Old Donation School Middle School leadership Workshop



Receiving a Wings Over America Scholarship is a continuing reminder of the strength of our community and all of those who serve. My father is a shining example of one of countless service members who have inspired me to pursue my dreams. No matter how busy his life got with deployments or work ups, he was always there when I needed him. One of my earliest memories is him taking me to the store to spend my first allowance and teaching me what it would take to earn what I wanted. It is no surprise that finance has developed into a lifelong passion. Thanks to the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation, I will have the opportunity to study at Claremont Mckenna College where I will learn for the sake of doing, at an institution with a rich history of giving back and supporting its community. I cannot wait to use all that I will learn and invest in future generations of young scholars like me.