VADM Jim & Kathie Scholar

Laeken Halfpap

El Cajon, CA

Sponsor: LCDR Joshua Halfpap

College: Patrick Henry College

2026-2027: Freshman

Major: Strategic Intelligence with minors in Music & Business Administration

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Debate Team Captain
- Sailing--Skipper and Crew
- Summer Swim Coach
- Kaleo Church of El Cajon Volunteer
- Ex Nihilo Speech and Debate
- Heartland Swim Association, Special Olympics



Benjamin Franklin once said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” As an avid reader, I can attest—my knowledge has helped me to secure jobs, win awards in speech and debate, and enjoy the humanities. I hope to create a foundation for my future by expanding my knowledge in higher education. This scholarship will allow me to do so. The education that it will provide for me is meaningful in several ways: it will grant me a reliable career, allow me to grow personally alongside my peers, and equip me to make a difference in the legal profession.

Furthermore, my college education will be a period of personal growth. I will be surrounded by other people who are eager to learn, and I will be mentored by experienced professors. I will certainly enjoy sharpening my mind and polishing my character as I make friends and work through difficult studies. I’ll also grow in extracurriculars—I hope to join an investment club, music programs, and the basketball team. I have already accepted an invitation to my college’s nationally recognized debate team. Through all of these opportunities, higher education will give me the resources to develop many valuable skills. The higher education that this scholarship provides will be one of the most meaningful milestones of my life because it will launch my career, grow me to be the person I aspire to be, and equip me to lead a purposeful life. I will learn from accomplished professors, and I will continuously improve myself. Ultimately, I will use my knowledge to make a positive impact on the world, just as my parents have.