



Society of Sponsors of the US Navy Scholar

Liz Merrill

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Sponsor: CPO Brian Gaston Merrill

College: Southern Nazarene University

2025-2026: Senior

Major: Family & Gerontology Studies

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Board Member, Green Country Walk to Emmaus
- Executive Director, Plumblin Ministries, Inc.
- Wisdom Seekers Support Group Leader
- VP & Office Manager, Iron Sharpens Iron, LLC



I am extremely honored and excited to receive the Wings Over America scholarship for the 2025/2026 school year. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to focus more on my schoolwork than having to be concerned about making the money to pay for school.

I also find it very affirming to receive this award which is based partially on my scholastic ability. This award has also boosted my confidence and is encouraging me to continue reaching my goals. My goals include completing this bachelor's degree in Family and Gerontology Studies in May of 2026, and then continuing on for my master's degree in counseling. This will allow me to move forward with licensure as a counselor which is my end goal. Another goal that I have is to publish a book to help others. My husband proudly served in the VP-4 and VP-24 squadrons and served for a total of twenty-two and a half years in the US Navy and has now retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He is also blessed by this scholarship. He loved his time in aviation in the US Navy and this scholarship continues to affirm his time there.

Thank you again for this incredible gift of the \$5000 Wings Over America Scholarship! I promise to give it my all, excel, and graduate strong!