

2020 FTA Association Scholarship Awards Announcement

The Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers in conjunction with the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce the awarding of twenty-three scholarships to graduating high school seniors, requisite to the Association's 2020 Scholarship Program. Applicants were rated on community service, athletics, National Honor Society membership, SAT/ACT score, class ranking, GPA, AP and Honors courses, and staff recommendations. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the application process was extended, resulting in the following awards to twenty-three worthy applicants.

The 7th Annual Debra Chesko \$1,000 Memorial Scholarship is awarded to the outstanding applicant in honor of our former FTA Benefits Consultant who graciously assisted our members in their benefits requests, notably our surviving spouses in their hour of need. Debra passed away in 2012. The \$1,000 Debra Chesko Memorial Scholarship is awarded to **Jessica A. Gronikowski, Granddaughter of William J. Gronikowki, #2243**. Jessica is a member of the National Honor Society and the World Language Honor Society (Italian). She was the Captain of the CyberPatriots Team, a national program sponsored by the Air Force Association promoting cybersecurity and science. Jessica led her team to the regional semi-finals for the first time in Notre Dame High School history. She has completed Advanced Placement courses in Art, English, Math, and the Science. She is an accomplished violinist who played in the Notre Dame High School Orchestra. Attaining a GPA of 99.22, Jessica has earned the status of being in the top of her class. She will continue her education at The College of New Jersey, majoring in English and Computer Science.

This year the Association Board decided to award two additional \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships. The first is made in honor of our fallen comrades in the name of Trooper William L. Carroll, Jr., #3296, who died in the line of duty on the New Jersey Turnpike in 1984. This scholarship was made possible by a generous donation to the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation by his widow, Michelle Carroll, who is President of the NJSP Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S. Chapter, and a Trustee Director of our Heritage Foundation. The \$1,000 Trooper William L. Carroll, Jr., Memorial Scholarship is awarded to, **Joseph P. MacArthur, Grandson of Russell R. MacArthur, #1508 (Ret)**. Joseph is a member of the National Honor Society and a delegate to the N.J. Boys State sponsored by the American Legion. He is a Varsity Soccer player and a member of the Track and Field Team at Florence High School. He has completed Advanced Placement courses in History, English, Biology, and Microeconomics. Joseph will be attending Kent State University in Ohio, majoring in Aeronautical Engineering.

The third Memorial Scholarship is awarded in the memory of Richard Salvatore Soranno who was the nephew of FTA President, Nicholas C. Soranno and the Corporate Counsel of our Association and our Heritage Foundation, Carl Soranno, ESQ. The families of Nick and Carl Soranno made a generous donation to the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation in honor of their nephew who passed away in 2020. Richard was a senior at the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts and was an accomplished jazz pianist. In his honor, the \$1,000 Richard Salvatore Soranno Memorial Scholarship is awarded to **Hayden D. Elefante, Grandson of William G. Madden, #2752**. Hayden will be attending Ball State University in Kentucky, majoring in musical theater. He has performed in many school productions and won several awards in addition to having an outstanding scholastic record at Zionsville Community High School, Indiana.

The FTA also recognizes eight other students with outstanding high school accomplishments who are awarded \$500 Scholarships. They include: **Jamie C. Caine, Daughter of William Hutnick, #2868; Isabelle R. Dallaire, Granddaughter of John F. McGourty, #2877; Emma J. Finnegan, Granddaughter of Wayne D. Shelton, #3061; Olivia A. Halton, Granddaughter of Carl Kalwaitis, #1035 (Deceased); Brayden R. Pape, Grandson of M. Robert Warner, #1799; Joseph T. Phillips, V, Grandson of Joseph T. Phillips, #2083; and Matthew B. Walsh, Step Grandson of Walter J. Zarsky, #1696.**

Twelve additional students were also awarded \$500 Scholarships. They are: **Sean G. Allen, Son of Gregory D. Allen, #5117; Casey J. Ballou, Grandson of James F. Murray, #3919; Aislyn E. Ciecwicz, daughter of Robert S. Ciecwicz, #4773; Emilee C. Creedon, Granddaughter of Philip Korejko, #2385; Matthew K. DeSarno, Grandson of Kenneth Wondrack, #2363; Lauren C. Durling, Granddaughter of John P. Laird, #1998; James J. Eddy, Son of Kevin T. Eddy, #4289; Jessica Jo Fearon, Daughter of William G. Fearon, #5147 (Deceased); Quinn C. McDonnell, Son of Michael E. McDonnell, #4466; Jayton C. Otlowski, Grandson of John D. Peluso, #1724; Isabella G. Storino, Granddaughter of Fred L. Tavener, #2314; and Michael D. Work, Grandson of Timothy M. O’Riordan, #3046.**

Congratulations to each of the awardees and all 2020 Graduates

If you have any questions, please call a committee member: Ernest Volkmann –Chairman @ (732) 254-5322, Michael McLaughlin @ (609) 820-3040, Ken Wondrack @ (732) 223-5259, Pat Reilly @ (856) 340-0843, or Al Della Fave @ (732) 908-6001.