12 students receive scholarships from Luke chapter of Military Officers Association of America
Quynh-Patty Nguyen 2015

Madchen DeFrain 2016

Kenneth Stayer 2016
As a result of the generosity from the community and chapter members, the Luke Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America was able to award a total of 12 scholarships this year. Nine were awarded to outstanding
high school seniors and three to first year college students who were awarded scholarships the previous year. The scholarships ranged in size from $1,000 to $2,250.

The winners were selected based on scholastic achievement, leadership, volunteer service, moral character, and acceptance at an accredited college or university. These students were honored at a May 12 dinner at the PebbleCreek Community clubhouse in Goodyear.

The Luke Chapter of MOAA acknowledges its donors who contributed $1,000 or more to the scholarship fund: Abrazo West, Liberty GMC, Liberty Buick, Newland Communities, Robson Communities, Admiral (R) and Mrs. Vern Clark, COL (R) and Mrs. Jerry Wojtas, LTC (R) and Mrs. Dennis DeFrain, Mrs. Priscilla Clay and Mrs. Lee Root. Numerous other individuals and businesses stepped up to make the scholarship fundraiser a success.

The following students were selected as the 2016 winners:

- Fallon Bowes graduated from Greenway High School in 2015 and currently attends the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis. She has completed her first year and is studying mechanical engineering.

- Quynh-Patty Nguyen attends Grand Canyon University. She has completed her first year and is planning a career in nursing. Prior to enrolling at GCU, Ms. Nguyen attended Greenway High School, graduating in 2015.

- Thomas Peterson graduated from Millennium High School in 2015. He attends New Mexico State University where he has completed his first year and is planning a career in aerospace engineering.

- Carlyn Sawdy-Bowes attends Greenway High School where she participated in numerous leadership and extracurricular activities all while maintaining a 3.95 GPA. She has also volunteered for organizations such as Toys for Tots, food drives and the ALS Foundation just to name a few. Ms. Sawdy-Bowes averaged more than 100 hours of community service each year in high school. She has been accepted to the United States Naval Academy and will report for training June 30 where she will pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

- Madchen DeFrain attends Wichita East High School in Wichita, Kansas and is in the International Baccalaureate program, a college level curriculum. Acceptance to this program is very competitive and gives students the chance to earn college credit while attending high school. She earned a 3.55 GPA in this curriculum. In addition, she is a member of DECA, Spanish Club, Feminist Club, and the Young Democrats Club. She also volunteers at the Kansas Humane Society. Ms. DeFrain plans to major in biology at the University of Kansas and then pursue a veterinary science degree.

- Brandon Amilcar Flores Diaz attends Independence High School. He is in the Navy Junior ROTC and has served as the Bravo Company Commander. This position has many responsibilities such as being in charge of 50 cadets ensuring their grades are consistent with Navy core values. Even with the added responsibilities he was still able to maintains a 3.81 GPA. He also has volunteered in many events in school and outside of school. Coaching his brother’s soccer team was one of the outside volunteer positions he chose. He plans to attend Grand Canyon University pursuing a degree that will lead him to becoming a physical therapist.

- Collin Engelson attends Westview High School where he maintains a 3.91 GPA. Mr. Engelson has been on the varsity golf team for four years and acted as co-captain. In addition, he is a member of the National Honor Society and through his participation has completed extensive community service. He has also tutored at one of the local elementary schools. In addition, he has travelled to Virginia with Nature Works Inc., which installs waste water treatment systems. He plans to attend Arizona State University and study space systems design and engineering.
• Braeden Goding attends Greenway High School where he maintains a 3.41 GPA while taking many honors classes. He is also in the JROTC program. Some of his extracurricular activities include color guard, air rifle team, armed drill, and leadership academy. Some of his community service activities include a food drive, adopt a family, teddy bear drive (through the fire department), and walk for wishes. Mr. Goding plans to attend Glendale Community College and pursue an environmental science degree. He is also interested in political science.

• Rylee Halla attends Dysart High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society. She has taken several AP classes and maintains a 3.61 GPA. Ms. Halla’s in school activities include varsity volleyball, varsity track and field, student government (vice president) year book, and volunteering with special education. She has volunteered for the Wounded Warrior Project and also at the local hospital. She plans to pursue a degree in nursing at Northern Arizona University.

• Devin Marinaccio attends Peoria High School where he maintains a 3.96 GPA. He is a member of AFJROTC and some of his activities include: color guard, honor guard, saber team, rifle team, commander of marksmanship, and a plans and programs staff position. He also is a volunteer at Desert Sky animal hospital. Mr. Marinaccio plans to attend Arizona State University where he will study computer engineering.

• Sean Oliver attends Franklin Police and Fire High School. He is a first sergeant in JROTC, and also part of an ACE college prep program that meets after school and on weekends. Mr. Oliver has been very active in his community dedicating more than 300 hours to various projects. For example, he helped organize blood drives for the American Red Cross. He has a 3.33 GPA and plans to attend Grand Canyon University pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

• Kenneth Stayer attends Greenway High School where he maintains a 3.33 GPA. He is an executive officer in NJROTC. Some of his responsibilities include color guard, drill team commander, and assistant administration officer, just to name a few. He has also been involved in community service such as canned food drives, toys for tots and the Ronald McDonald house. Mr. Stayer plans to attend Northwestern Preparatory School and study engineering. One of his goals is to become a Navy Seal.