



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



## KEVIN ARELLANO

**HOMETOWN:** Belton, Texas

**ATTENDS:** University of Texas, Austin

**MAJOR:** Neuroscience - Pre-Med

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** American Medical Student Association, UT Alpha Phi Sigma pre-med honor student, Red Cross, UTHA contract tracing team

**GOALS:** Upon graduation, he plans to attend the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and complete his general surgery, cardiothoracic, and pediatric residency programs at Massachusetts General Hospital.

### UNITED STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT GUIDO R. ARELLANO

United States Army Staff Sergeant Guido R. Arellano served his country for over twenty years honorably. SSG Arellano spent his time in the military working as a Aviation Operations Specialist and in Automated Logistics. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4th Award), Army Achievement Medal (6th Award), the Army Good Conduct Medal (6th Award), and many other awards and decorations. His duty stations included Germany, Korea, Kuwait, Fort Bragg, Fort Rucker, Fort Hood and Fort Bliss. He spent time deployed during Operation Endruing Freedom. He earned his bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts, while in the military, from Excelsior College. Currently he works as a veterans affairs field examiner, and enjoys spending time with his family. He is United States, retired and disabled Veteran.

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## ABIGAIL KRAMER

**HOMETOWN:** Sauk Rapids, MN

**ATTENDS:** Minnesota State University

**MAJOR:** Graphic Design as a Freshman

**INTERESTS:** Art, music, traveling and spending time with her family

**GOALS:** Upon graduation from college her plans and aspirations include, having a job that she can go to that she enjoys.

### CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2, JOHN J. PESTA

United States Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 John J. Pesta served his country honorably for over 20 years. CW2 Pesta joined the military in 1997 following other members of his family as his father, brother, uncles, and many cousins were active military. He was stationed at Camp Ripley with the Minnesota National Guard, and spent his time working in Electronic Missile Systems, and Specialty Vehicle Operations. His decorations include Army Commendation Medal, Combat and Special Skills Badge Driver and Mechanic Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and many other awards and decorations. He spent one deployment in Iraq and loved traveling with his wife and children. April 21st, 2018, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Pesta passed away due to service-connected injuries, he was 39 years old. His stepdaughter Abigail reflects, "I am most proud of him for how dedicated he was, how driven to do things to his best ability, and how he helped others". He is survived by his wife and three children. He is a United States Veteran.

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## BRANSON PUGH

**HOMETOWN:** Martinsville, Indiana

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Indiana

**INTERESTS:** Science, mechanics and baseball

**GOALS:** He wants to be a scientist when grows up. He is still considering being a famous recording artist or awesome dancer as other options.

### UNITED STATES ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT BRANDON L. PUGH

United States Army National Guard Sergeant Brandon L. Pugh of Martinsville, Indiana, enlisted in the United States Army immediately following high school. Following Brandon's military training, he deployed to Khowst, Afghanistan from 2009-2010, where he sustained multiple injuries to his back, legs, and ultimately suffered from severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He has received numerous awards for his service including Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Stars, NATO Afghanistan Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and many other awards. While he was recovering from his injuries his wife passed away suddenly leaving him to care for her two children and their infant son Branson with the help of his parents. SGT Pugh has overcome obstacles and continues to persevere. He is now remarried to his wonderful and loving wife Katie while continuing to be a great father and role model to their children. He is a United States Veteran.

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## MELODY BROOKS

**HOMETOWN:** Leavenworth, Kansas

**ATTENDS:** University of Kansas-Lawrence, Kansas

**MAJOR:** Environmental Studies

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Girl Scout Gold Award recipient 2020; Started Eco Club at Highschool

**GOALS:** Upon graduation, she wishes to become a Park Ranger or work in U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

### UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL G. BROOKS

United States Air Force Master Sergeant Michael G. Brooks served his country honorably for over 20 years. MSgt Brooks spent his time in the military working as a Weather Craftsman (Forecaster), and as a Journeyman in Operation Resource Management. He traveled all over the world during his military career and spent time deployed during Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Desert Storm. He obtained a college degree while in the military and just recently earned his master's degree. His daughter Melody looks up to her father, and appreciates the things he taught her growing up. In 2003, Master Sergeant Brooks medically retired due to service-connected injuries. Currently, he is a writer/editor for the US Navy as a civilian and is enjoying his retirement.

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## VIVIANA GONZALES

**HOMETOWN:** Lees Summit, Missouri

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Lees Summit, Missouri

**INTERESTS:** Art, STEM and Dancing

### UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT MATTHEW J. GONZALES

United States Army Sergeant Matthew J. Gonzales served his country for over five years. SGT Gonzales spent his time in the military working in Medical Logistics. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and many other awards and decorations. He was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He earned his undergraduate degree from University of Kansas and was an active member of the Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, and then began his master's program at Baker University. He was a lifelong fan of all Kansas sports, and lit up the room when he entered. His passion for his family, and life were known by all the knew him. In January of 2014, Matthew was diagnosed a rare cancer- that was determind service-related from his time in Iraq. He passed on January 10th, 2015 after a year-long, very hard battle with cancer. He was 31 years old.

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## SHANE KIELION JR

**HOMETOWN:** Bellevue, Nebraska

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Bellevue, Nebraska

**INTERESTS:** Football, basketball, wrestling, and hunting

**GOALS:** Upon graduation from high school, he has plans to join the US Navy or the US Marine Corps and become a pilot.

### US MARINE CORPS CORPORAL SHANE E. KIELION

US Marine Corps Corporal Shane E. Kielion of La Vista, Nebraska, was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California and served during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cpl Kielion was starting quarterback on the Omaha South High School football team and went to Peru State College for a short time on a football scholarship. When that did not work out, he returned to Omaha to work and joined the Marines. Due to his actions in combat, he earned a Silver Star and Purple Heart for wounds received in action. On November 15th, 2004 Cpl Kielion was killed during enemy action in Anbar province, Iraq. He was 23 years old. For Cpl Kielion's wife April Kielion, Nov 15th, 2004, remains a very pivotal day in her life. At 10am her baby was delivered by cesarean section after his fetal heartbeat dropped dangerously low. He was born screaming and healthy. "Oh, my gosh, he looks just like Shane," April's mother said at the time. In a distant Iraq, Shane Kielion lay in a hospital bed, too. He had been shot during a firefight earlier that day on a rooftop in Fallujah. The Rev. Ron Camarda, a navy chaplain, blessed Kielion, pressing a thumb to the Marine's bloody forehead and placing a hand on his chest, according to a 2005 account in the Florida Times Union. A Marine gunnery sergeant held Shane's hand, and the doctors and nurses cried softly. He died a half-hour before his son was born. April waited all day for a phone call from Shane that never came. Shortly after midnight, though, a Marine officer in dress blues arrived at her parents' doorstep with the somber news.

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## KARINA SAVIDGE

**HOMETOWN:** Dumfries, Virginia

**ATTENDS:** Notre Dame as a freshman

**MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering

**INTERESTS:** Outdoor activities, and learning about nature as well as her faith. This has lead her to become a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, who help fundraise for her home parish.

**GOALS:** She aspires to be the best ROTC cadet in the Notre Dame program, go to medical school, travel the world, and much more; yet her biggest goal is to become the person God created her to be.

### ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL TIMOTHY L. SAVIDGE

Army Lieutenant Colonel Timothy L. Savidge comes from a family lineage of military service. His father retired as an Army Warrant Officer, one brother was in the Coast Guard, another brother retired from the Army as a Delta Force Operator, and his sister served 10 years as a helicopter pilot for the Army. After completing Army ROTC at the University of New Mexico in 1995, LTC Savidge began his career and served honorably for just over 24 years. He started as an Infantry Officer with the 101st Airborne Division and then completed the Special Forces Qualification Course. He earned his Green Beret in May of 2000. Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia, South Africa, Ghana, Ireland, England, Scotland, Mali, Germany, Austria, and Spain are some of the countries in which LTC Savidge helped train special operations units. He also completed three combat tours to Iraq and one to Afghanistan, earning the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Award), and many, many other awards and decorations. After retiring from the Army, LTC Savidge decided to return to school and earned his Master of Science in International Relations from Troy University.

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## DERON EPPS

**HOMETOWN:** Lake City, South Carolina

**ATTENDS:** North Greenville, University - Lake City, South Carolina

**MAJOR:** Mathematics

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Playing football on his college football team.

**GOALS:** Aspires to become an engineer

### UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DERWIN J. EPPS

United States Army Sergeant First Class Derwin J. Epps served our country honorably for over 17 years. SFC Epps spent his time in the military working as a Cannon Crewman, Military Police Officer, and a Human Resource Specialist. Deploying four times including Cuba (GTMO Bay), Iraq (2), and Kuwait, SFC Epps earned the Bronze Star Medal, and the Purple Heart Award for wounds received in action, and many other awards and decorations. Currently he enjoys spending time with his family and is now a retired, disabled veteran.

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## KATHERINE PRATT

**HOMETOWN:** Overland Park, Kansas

**ATTENDS:** University of Texas, Austin

**MAJOR:** Journalism / Advertising / Minor in Business

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Team Soccer, working with special needs and physically disabled children, and teaching them about soccer, high school mentor program, Alpha Chi Omega Philanthropy, SAFE Alliance-Domestic Violence Awareness Organization

**GOALS:** Become a journalist

### UNITED STATES ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN W. PRATT

United States Army Lieutenant Colonel John W. Pratt served his country honorably for over twenty years honorably. LTC Pratt spent his time in the military working many different jobs, including Industrial Management. He was awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/2 Campaign Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal w/2 Campaign Stars, The Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), and many other awards and decorations. He served in many state-side locations as well as Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He was deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2016, Lieutenant Colonel Pratt was medically retired due to service-connected injuries. He currently lives in Kansas, works for the Veterans Affairs office and is enjoying his retirement from the military.

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## SETH LUCAS

**HOMETOWN:** Virginia Beach, Virginia

**ATTENDS:** United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland

**MAJOR:** Math Economics

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** By the age of 15, Seth had become a mentor to other youth who are working to cope with the same loss that he shares with them. Whether teaching them how to scuba dive, achieve an open water certification, or hike the Appalachian Trail, he sees being a positive role model as the most important part of his mentorship.

**GOALS:** Upon graduation, Seth will enter active-duty Navy

### NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS JEFF A. LUCAS

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff A. Lucas was a 33-year-old, from Corbett, Oregon, assigned to SEAL Team 10 out of Virginia Beach, VA. His team only had two days to get ready for a 6-month assignment in the middle East. On June 28th, 2005, in support of Operation Red Wings, 16 Special Operations Forces (eight SEALs and eight Army Night Stalkers), boarded a helicopter in broad daylight to rescue teammates Marcus Luttrell and three other SEAL team members who had been pinned down by Taliban and al-Qaida fighters during a reconnaissance mission. While ferrying personnel to the battle in their MH-47 Chinook helicopter, enemy fire (possibly a rocket-propelled grenade) brought the aircraft down killing everyone on board. Of the four SEALs on the ground, Marcus Luttrell was the only survivor. It was the worst loss for elite Navy forces since World War II.

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## TIADELAINE "TIA" MORRALL

**ATTENDED:** Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

**EDUCATION:** Studied Finance in Business and graduated with a bachelor's degree in May 2021

**HISTORY:** After starting her higher education studies 15 years earlier, Tia put things on hold to focus on her family; specifically, raising her daughter. Her parents immigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines when she was seven and Tia was the first in her family to receive a higher education degree. Tia was a multi-year Folds of Honor scholarship past recipient.

### NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JAY A. MORRALL

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jay A. Morrall served our country honorably for four years before passing away in the line of duty on September 2, 2002 at the age of 21. His death came just three months after the birth of the couple's only child; a daughter. PO2 Morrall spent a year and a half training at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command and then the next two and a half years working as a Nuclear Engineering Lab Technician aboard the USS Topeka. Just prior to his passing, PO2 Morrall had re-enlisted for another four years of active duty. His wife Tia recalls, "What I remember most about Jay is his ability to tell great and funny stories. When we were with his shipmates, he always had the ability to make everyone laugh. Being on a submarine, laughter was very helpful during hard times of being stuck under water in tight quarters." Some of PO2 Morrall's awards and decorations included the Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Enlisted Submarine Warfare Insignia, among others.

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## FELICITE KOMBEY

**HOMETOWN:** St. Louis, Missouri

**ATTENDS:** Maryville University of St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri

**INTERESTS:** Reading, crafting, and exercising. She feels what sets her apart from other students is her experience being a wife of a service member it gives her a greater understanding of the sacrifice's that a military family must endure while the service member is away.

**GOALS:** Her future goal is to obtain her degree and pursue a job her field to allow her to better the life of her family. She is a Folds of Honor Higher Education Spouse Recipient.

### UNITED STATES ARMY CORPORAL MIDOAMEHA KOMBEY

United States Army Corporal Midoameha Kombey served our country honorably for 5 years. Deeply touched by the attack of 9/11 while in his country (TOGO), he committed to doing anything to help deter who are responsible for this act because he explained later: "An attack on the US is an attack on the whole world". Therefore, when he got a chance to move to the US, he did not hesitate to see his dreams come true. He joined the army in 2011 and volunteered in 2012 to become a paratrooper. He did not stop there and his advanced age was not an obstacle to take on a new challenge to serve with love, dignity, and tenacity the country he loves so much. He volunteered while finishing Airborne School, to become a Ranger and serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment. After training, he was assigned to 1 BN 75 RGR RGT where he served for 5 years. He deployed multiple times to different regions of the world and received honors, awards, or decorations during his time at 1st battalion to include Joint Service Commendation, Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Combat Action Badge, Army Good Conduct, NATO Medal, Expert Marksmanship badge w/ Carbine Bar, Certificates of Achievement, National Defense Service Medal. Since retiring he has been working on obtaining his MBA with Cybersecurity as Concentration. He is very discreet and does not talk a lot about what he did in the service. One thing we are sure of is that he is immensely proud of what he has done. Anytime he was asked if he would do again it again, he answers: Rangers, Lead the Way! He is a United States Veteran.

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# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



## MILANA LSHIKAR

**HOMETOWN:** Raeford, North Carolina

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Fayetteville, North Carolina

**INTERESTS:** Loves horseback riding, violin, gymnastics and going to school

**GOALS:** When Milana grows up she hopes to become the President of the United States

### UNITED STATES ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MARK LSHIKAR

United States Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Mark Leshikar served his country between the Air Force and the Army for over ten years. SFC Leshikar spent his time in the military working as a Special Forces Weapons Sergeant and was assigned to A Co, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). He loved working in Special Forces, and was educated extensively in this specialty. His declarations include The Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal and many other awards. He volunteered to deploy to Philippines, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. He was a husband and a father to a single little girl, who lit up his world. His wife explains, "As a parent, Mark did anything and everything to provide for myself and our daughter, Milana. Our daughter was his world, his princess, his absolute everything. When he was home, he was all the way home, and his attention was always on his daughter. He always made sure we were safe and happy". He passed on March 21st, 2018, he was 33 years old.

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## SARAH SCHERKENBACH

**HOMETOWN:** Jacksonville, Florida

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Jacksonville, Florida

**INTERESTS:** Journalism, Political Science, Literature, writing, art, reading, Mandarin, Broadway, and Theater

**GOALS:** Sarah has yet to decide what she wishes to do with her future career-wise; however, she expresses interest in journalism, creative writing, political science, and constitutional law

### UNITED STATES ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 CHRIS SCHERKENBACH

He received multiple awards including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal with Valor device, the Master Army Aviator Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. He was part of an elite rescue mission consisting of eight soldiers and eight U.S. Navy SEALs deployed to rescue four SEALs captured or killed by Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, on June 28, 2005, CW4 Scherkenbach passed away when an MH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed while ferrying personnel to a battle against militants in eastern Afghanistan.

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## ADDISON MCCORMACK

**HOMETOWN:** Enterprise, Alabama

**ATTENDS:** Auburn University

**MAJOR:** Apparel Merchandising as a Junior

**INTERESTS:** Working at a local boutique, painting, and sewing

**GOALS:** Addison stated, "After college, I plan to pursue a job in Apparel and work for Spanx or Anthropologie! Both companies interest me in every way. Most of all, my goal for the future is to love others and show them the real authentic me."

### UNITED STATES ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 JASON MCCORMACK

United States Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jason McCormack started as a Forward Observer and then applied to be in Flight School in 2003, which led to him becoming an Instructor Pilot. Serving 20 years, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal 9th Award, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Achievement Medal 5th Award, National Defense Service Medal 2nd Award, Afghanistan Campaign Medal 2nd Award, and Iraq Campaign Medal 2nd Award.

Unfortunately, on November 23, 2015, CW4 Jason McCormack passed away. His daughter, Addison stated, "My dad instilled in me how important hard work is and it still applies every day."

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## AMIRAH GOODE

**HOMETOWN:** Kalamazoo, Michigan

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Kalamazoo, Michigan

**INTERESTS:** Volleyball, tennis, and mentoring

**GOALS:** To become a director for a luxury fashion brand

### UNITED STATES ARMY ARMY CORPORAL JORDAN GOODE

CPL Goode was serving as a cavalry scout under Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Hip-hop music and drawing were two of his favorite passions. He was a fun-loving man, who could make the most of a bad situation with his laugh and could light up a room with his smile.

On August 11, 2007, in Zormont, Afghanistan, CPL Good was killed when a roadside bomb detonated beneath the truck he was driving. He was 21 years old. A graduate from New City High School, Kalamazoo, Michigan, CPL Goode joined the Army in 2004. He had a zest for life and loved anything that involved risk-taking.

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## ANABELLE MOMPREMIER

**HOMETOWN:** Pooler, Georgia

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Savannah, Georgia

**INTERESTS:** Hanging out with friends, being outdoors, and going to school

**GOALS:** To excel in all her subjects in school

### UNITED STATES ARMY CAPTAIN EMERSON MOMPREMIER

CPT Emerson C Mompremier enlisted in 2004 and became active duty in 2012. His training included supply manager; commander executive officer-platoon leader maintenance orientation; command post of the future operation; commanders' course; Field Artillery basic officer leader; Army Medical Department office basic course. He received the Army Commendation medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism service medal and Army Service Ribbon.

Unfortunately, on October 17, 2015, Army Captain Mompremier, lost his life. His wife stated, "CPT Mompremier was always dedicated to his job and loved helping others. He always encouraged others to pursuit their dreams and continue their education.

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## BRADYN BISHOP

**HOMETOWN:** Niceville, Florida

**ATTENDS:** A Private School in Niceville, Florida

**INTERESTS:** Hunting, camping, fishing, football, and video games

**GOALS:** Brady has decided that he also wants to follow in the footsteps of his dad, and both his grandfathers to serve his country in the military one day.

### UNITED STATES ARMY MAJOR BARRY BISHOP

Major Barry L. Bishop served in Desert Storm and was serving with the 44th CST Weapons of Mass Destruction Unit when he was diagnosed with Medullary Carcinoma.

Unfortunately, on November 16, 2004, the cancer took Major Bishop's life, shortly after Bradyn was born. His wife stated, "He was also a great Soldier - intelligent, organized, and an asset to his units. We love looking at all his awards, coins, and framed memories."

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