

2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Since 2004, the 17th Artillery Regiment Association has awarded fifty-eight scholarship grants, in the amount of \$77,740, to the children, grandchildren and great-grand children of 17th Field Artillery Regiment veterans and active duty soldiers.

17th Artillery Regiment Association Awards College Scholarship to Red Land High School Student

The 17th Artillery Regiment Association recently awarded college scholarships to three very deserving students, who included two granddaughter and one grandson. The three scholarships totaled \$7850.00. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a Congratulations Letter, and a 17th Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement. Each year the 17th Artillery Regiment Association awards scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of veterans and current active-duty soldiers who have served with this proud regiment. Applicants must meet the Association's eligibility requirements and are evaluated on academic achievement, community service, extra-curricular activities at school, an essay on a different annual topic, and a faculty member's Letter of Recommendation.

The first-place winner is Aaron Snelbaker, a 2021 graduate of Red Land High School, in Lewisberry, PA. During his high school years, Aaron applied himself diligently to his academic course work. He enrolled in five Advanced Placement and/or Honors Courses and completed them with outstanding grades – enough to earn college credit in three courses. He was selected to the National Honor Society and the prestigious Spanish Honor Society.

A review of Aaron's high school activities reflects a very busy and dedicated student-athlete. He played football for four years, earned two varsity letter and, in his senior year, was the Team Captain. He also excelled in track & field, running the sprints and hurdles. As a member of the Key Club for four years, he was active assisting in all types of events at his high school and community. As the Director of a local group, Patriots Helping Patriots, he managed the collection and distribution of food to the local American Legion and to some 100 veterans in need. He also found time to participate in Junior ROTC and was a Staff Officer in his senior year. Highly recognized for his leadership skills, the principal appointed him to the West Shore School District Student Advisory Council. The school coaches also valued Aaron's leadership skills and appointed him to the Student Athlete Advisory Council. On both of these councils, he brought his leadership and good ideas to make his high school better.

His high school principal writes that "Aaron has earned a reputation amongst staff as a student that is honorable, dependable, and committed to excellence. Aaron's leadership and desire to continually challenge himself academically and personally is evident in his numerous achievements while at Red land High school."

For his outstanding achievements, Aaron Snelbaker was honored at his school's award ceremony and received a 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship Award of \$3, 350.00. This 17th Artillery Scholarship was named in honor of Staff Sergeant Felipe Duran Camarillo, who served with C Battery, 2nd



Battalion, 17th Artillery. He was killed in hostile action in Vietnam and is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, DC, at Panel 47e, Line 47. Aaron Snelbaker's connection to the 17th Artillery is through his grandfather, William Beers, Jr., who served in Vietnam with 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery in 1968 and 1969. 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship winner, Aaron Snelbaker and his grandfather, Bill Beers, display Aaron's scholarship award

The second 2021 winners is Bethany Schafer, a current student at Carson-Newman University, in Jefferson City, Tennessee. Bethany has continued her nursing education by completing a Post Masters Certificate. Once she completes the program and board certification, she will be permitted to practice as a Nurse.

Along with her very time-consuming academic schedule, she found time to contribute to her church and the American Legion Riders. She was very active in her church as an adult bible teacher. She also found time to serve as the Secretary for the local American Legion Riders.

Bethany's university Chairperson of the Nursing Department commented that "Her reflection of clinical experience demonstrates genuine concern for her patients, excellent communications skills, and strong leadership potential."

For her outstanding accomplishments, Bethany Schafer will receive a 17th Artillery Regiment Association Award of \$2, 500.00. This 17th Artillery Scholarship was named in honor of Second Lieutenant Gilbert Bush, who served bravely in Vietnam, while assigned to A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery. He was killed in hostile action in Vietnam and is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, DC, at Panel 07e Line 39. Bethany's sponsor with the 17th Artillery is her father, Donald Brooks, who served in the 17th Artillery at Fort Sill, OK, and Vietnam from 1964 through 1966.



A proud grandfather, Donald Brooks, and 17th Artillery veteran, presents his granddaughter, Bethany Schafer, with a 2021 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship.

The third 2021 winner is Elizabeth Dudek, a recent graduate of Nanuet High School, in Nanuet, NY. During her high school years, Elizabeth made an outstanding mark academically, as an athlete and in community service. Academically, she challenged herself by taking three college courses, including Criminal Justice, Psychology, and business law; as well as taking an Honors English Course. To compliment her understanding of the criminal justice systems, she was involved in a weekly Youth Court Program.

Elizabeth proved to be an integral member of her community as she was involved in her school's Red Cross Club and the community's Meals on Wheels Program. She guided her Red Cross Club members to write over 200 support letters to a local hospital's first-responders. With the Meals on Wheels Program, she was part of a heartwarming effort for the community by collecting food from local pet stores for families who could not obtain pet food during the pandemic. She also created and delivered Blizzard Boxes, which contained non-perishable food and supplies, to families to store for harsh weather days when deliveries could not be made. Throughout her high school years, she was also a dedicated volleyball player and softball player. For her unselfish contribution to the volleyball team, she received the Sportsmanship Award in her sophomore year. Showing her dedication to volleyball, Elizabeth competed and was selected to play on one of the area's elite volleyball teams. In her spare time, she managed to work twenty hours per week and in the summer, she was a camp counselor – making a positive impact on the community's youngsters.

Elizabeth's school counselor writes that "Elizabeth thrives on activity, makes opportunities for herself and multitasks effortlessly. She is admired by her teachers, and maybe more important, she is well liked by her peers. She is the young woman any parent would feel comfortable having their daughter room with freshman year in college!"



17th Artillery Regiment Association
Scholarship winner, Elizabeth Dudek, and
her grandfather, Henry Dudek, display
Elizabeth's scholarship award.

For her outstanding achievements, Elizabeth Dudek was honored at her school's award ceremony and received a 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship Award of \$2,000.00. This 17th Artillery Scholarship was named in honor of Sergeant First Class Charles Riley, who was a valuable non-commissioned officer with the 4th Battalion, 17th Artillery for many years. Elizabeth Dudek's connection to the 17th Artillery is through her grandfather, Henry Dudek, who served with 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery at Fort Sill, OK, and in Vietnam, from 1964 to 1966.