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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **\$37,500 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO STUDENTS OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

*Over the past 3 years, the Kelly Gibson Foundation along with its community partners have awarded \$87,500 in scholarships to 43 recipients.*

COVINGTON, La., November 12, 2021 – The Kelly Gibson Foundation along with its community partners awarded \$37,500 in college scholarships to 18 children and direct descendants of active military and veterans. Eligible applicants are high school juniors up to college 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors that are 22 years old or younger. Applicants have family with backgrounds in US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves.

Before the golf tournament began, veterans and supporters of the event, along with families of Tchefuncta Club Estates, were on hand to witness the Louisiana National Guard Black Hawk helicopter landing. There was a recognition ceremony that included a Presentation of Colors by Covington High School ROTC program, National Anthem, and special recognition of all veterans attending the event. After tournament play concluded, dinner was provided – which featured shrimp dishes from Louisiana Seafood – longest drive, closest-to-the-hole prizes and first place trophies were awarded, 18 scholarships were presented, and country music artist, David Blackwell performed a closing concert.

Scholarships were awarded to deserving high school and college students at the Swing Hard for Soldiers golf tournament presented by McMath Construction and Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust. Each year, these scholarships are awarded based on academics, community service, financial need, and essay responses.

**Eighteen (18) scholarships totaling \$37,500 were given on behalf of the Kelly Gibson Foundation. \$25,000 was provided by the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust. \$10,000 was provided by Kelly Gibson Foundation. \$2,500 was provided by Char and David Westfall in honor of CPO Jacques Fontan.**

Ann Margaret Christopher - \$1,000 scholarship  
Chase May - \$1,000 scholarship  
Gil Ward - \$1,000 scholarship  
Megan Gettys - \$1,000 scholarship  
Brennan Comeaux - \$1,375 scholarship  
Brooke Whelan - \$1,375 scholarship  
Devin Middleton - \$1,375 scholarship  
Emma Mier - \$1,375 scholarship  
Julia Cresson - \$1,375 scholarship  
Lena Gunn - \$1,375 scholarship  
Makayla Hairston - \$1,375 scholarship  
Victoria Duhe - \$1,375 scholarship

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Abigail Rink - \$2,500 scholarship in honor of Tchefuncta Country Club Veterans  
Evan Greene - \$2,500 scholarship in honor of Colonel Bill Roberti  
Morgan Hebert - \$2,500 scholarship in honor of Colonel Ron Senac  
Presley Bauer - \$2,500 scholarship in honor of First Lieutenant John Portwood  
Tayler Clark - \$5,000 scholarship in honor of Master Chief Steve Gonzalez  
William Murphy \$7,500 scholarship in honor of Chief Jacques Fontan

The Kelly Gibson Foundation had many proud partners of this year's Swing Hard for Soldiers: Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust and McMath Construction (co-title sponsors), Manning Lumber & Marine LLC, Eustis Mortgage, Walmart, Alvarez & Marsal, Bill Hussey, Upperline Media & Cupcake Concept, Merrill Lynch, John Portwood, Trey Tantillo, Bevolo Gas & Electric Lights, Greyson, Resource Bank, Farm Bureau Insurance, Gulf States Contractors, RCI, Dabdoub Insurance & Investments, Roe Wilkinson, Direct Tire Town, New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association, Peninsula Pacific Entertainment & Camellia Bay, Wagar/Hickman Attorneys at Law, Banner Ford, Saffron Farms LLC, Gulf Coast Bank, Kevin Quirk & Harvest Connect LLC, Crown Buick/GMC, Mike Biguenet, GNO Properties, Juvo Technologies, Pyre Restaurant, Coca-Cola, John Bevington, PJ's Coffee & WOW American Eats, Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

#### **About The Kelly Gibson Foundation:**

The Kelly Gibson Foundation was founded as Feed the Relief, Inc. by Kelly and Elizabeth Gibson in September of 2005 with the idea of providing necessary support for the front line first responders to Hurricane Katrina. In the days and weeks following the disaster of Katrina, Feed the Relief provided support to the Coast Guard, EMS personnel, police and fire departments, community centers, hospitals, and residents as they returned to their homes. In 2010, Feed the Relief, a 501(c)3 corporation, changed its name to The Kelly Gibson Foundation, and expanded its scope to enrich the lives of children through athletics. *For more information, please visit [www.thekellygibsonfoundation.org](http://www.thekellygibsonfoundation.org).*

#### **About Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust:**

Mr. Tolmas was dedicated to giving back to his community. In his last will and testament he formed the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust to help other charitable organizations. He left all of his estate to the trust. Our mission is to spread the legacy and generosity of Oscar J. Tolmas throughout the region and assist local charitable organizations with their missions. A WWII Veteran, he was honorably discharged in 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Although he was an active businessman, attorney, and real estate developer, his passion was horse racing. A regular at the New Orleans Fair Grounds racetrack for decades, he was a member of the Louisiana Racing Commission for 12 years and Chairman for four years. *For more information, please visit <https://www.ojtolmastrust.org>.*

#### **About McMath Construction:**

McMath has emerged as a leader in the construction industry, providing unparalleled service, knowledge, and resources to the southeast's growing commercial and residential markets. McMath Construction's team of experienced professionals are committed to excellence in construction and exceeding their clients' expectations. The company's longevity and continued success are a direct result of this dedication. With its emphasis on quality and outstanding service, McMath Construction will continue to be a leader in the construction industry. *For more information, please visit <https://www.mcmathpros.com/index.html>.*

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