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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **\$52,500 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 17 CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

*Over the past 4 years, the Kelly Gibson Foundation along with its community partners have awarded \$140,000 in scholarships to 60 recipients.*

COVINGTON, La., November 11, 2022 – The Kelly Gibson Foundation along with its community partners awarded \$52,500 in college scholarships to 17 children and direct descendants of active military and veterans. Eligible applicants are high school juniors up to 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors in college. Applicants have family with backgrounds in the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and National Guard.

Before the golf tournament began, veterans and supporters of the event, along with families of Tchefuncta Club Estates, were on hand to witness a Black Hawk helicopter landing from the Louisiana National Guard. There was a recognition ceremony that included a Presentation of Colors by Covington High School ROTC, National Anthem, moment of silence and special recognition of all veterans attending the event. After tournament play concluded, dinner was provided – which featured seafood dishes from the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board – longest drive, closest-to-the-hole prizes and first place trophies were awarded, 17 scholarships were presented, and country music band, David Blackwell and the Big Easy performed a closing concert. The night concluded with a fireworks show presented by Senator Patrick McMath.

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

**Seventeen (17) scholarships totaling \$52,500 were given on behalf of the Kelly Gibson Foundation. \$30,000 was provided by the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust. \$10,000 was provided by Paul Landry and Foti Financial. \$10,000 was provided by Kelly Gibson Foundation. \$2,500 was provided by Char and Drew Westfall in honor of CPO Jacques Fontan.**

Isabele Airey - \$1,100 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Samantha Schultz - \$1,100 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Graham Chambley - \$1,100 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Parker Dickerson - \$1,100 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Lindsey Harrison - \$1,100 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Taylor Vander - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Julia Spiess - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Russell Cresson - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Blake Eddings - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Darby Middleton - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship  
Emily Green - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship in honor of Tchefuncta Country Club Veterans

Continued

Kailey Brooks - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship in honor of Sergeant Sean Cawthorne

Emma Fisher - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship in honor of Major William "John" Hussey

Collin Edwards - \$3,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship in honor of Dr. Dominic C. Foti, Corporal

Cassidy Johnson - \$5,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship in honor of Colonel Bill Roberti

Ashlynn Inness - \$5,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship in honor of Master Chief Steve Gonzalez

Kaitlyn Gonzalez - \$10,000 Oscar J Tolmas Memorial Scholarship in honor of Chief Petty Officer Jacques Fontan

The Kelly Gibson Foundation had many proud partners of this year's Swing Hard for Soldiers: Oscar J Tolmas Charitable Trust, Foti Financial, Bennett Hodgins Law, Manning Lumber & Marine LLC, Forte Team at Eustis Mortgage, Walmart, Gulf Coast Bank & Trust, Bonefrog Foundation, Senator Patrick McMath, Southeast Waterproofing LLC, PJ's Coffee, WOW American Eats, Alvarez & Marsal, Bill Hussey, Cupcake Concept, Merrill Lynch of Baton Rouge, John Portwood, Bevolo Gas & Electric Lights, Greyson Clothiers, Resource Bank, Farm Bureau Insurance, RCI, Direct Tire Town, Banner Ford, Crown Buick/GMC, Ahead, Juvo Technologies, Southside Café, Coppola Wines, Rusty Pelican, Norqain, Coca-Cola, John Bevington, Wildcat Brothers, Seven Three Distilling, and the 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.kellygibsonfoundation.org](http://www.kellygibsonfoundation.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 [www.ojtolmastrust.org](http://www.ojtolmastrust.org).*

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