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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KELLY GIBSON FOUNDATION HONORS VETERANS THROUGH GOLF TOURNAMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Over the past 2 years, the Kelly Gibson Foundation along with its community partners have awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to 25 children of military families.

COVINGTON, La., November 13, 2020 – The Kelly Gibson Foundation honored war heroes and military veterans at the 3rd annual Swing Hard for Soldiers golf tournament at Tchefuncta Country Club. During the awards ceremony portion of the event, 14 local young men and women received a total of \$25,000 in collegiate scholarships through a partnership with the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust.

Before the golf tournament began, veterans, supporters of the event, and families of Tchefuncta Club Estates were on hand to witness the Louisiana National Guard Black Hawk helicopter landing. There was breakfast provided and a recognition ceremony. The pre-tournament ceremony included a Presentation of Colors by Covington High School ROTC program, the National Anthem, and special recognition of the 30 veterans and active military in attendance. After tournament play concluded, trophies were awarded to the first-place team and prizes were given to the players with the closest-to-the-hole and longest drive. 14 scholarships were presented and dinner was provided to tournament players, supporters, and the scholarship recipients and their families. The event closed out with a country music concert by David Blackwell and The Big Easy band.

Fourteen (14) scholarships totaling \$25,000 were given on behalf of the Kelly Gibson Foundation and provided by the Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust.

The Oscar J. Tolmas Memorial Scholarships are awarded based on academics, community service, financial need, and essay responses. To be eligible, applicants must be children or direct descendants of active military or veterans and must be high school juniors up to college 5th year seniors. Applicants have family with backgrounds in US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves.

Fallyn Hartdegen - \$1,000 scholarship
LaReyna Joya - \$1,000 scholarship
Emma Filostrat - \$1,000 scholarship
Brandie Hayes - \$1,000 scholarship
A’Nya Wheatley - \$1,100 scholarship
Rylee Johnson - \$1,100 scholarship
Regan Descant - \$1,100 scholarship
Sydney Yeager - \$1,100 scholarship
Jackson Ballard - \$1,100 scholarship in honor of First Lieutenant John Portwood
Ann-Margaret Christopher - \$2,500 scholarship in honor of Colonel Bill Roberti

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Hannah Hauck - \$2,500 scholarship in honor of Colonel Ron Senac
Nathan Mitchell - \$2,500 scholarship in honor of Tchefuncta Country Club Veterans
Hannah Ryder - \$4,000 scholarship in honor of Master Chief Steve Gonzalez
Corinne Cheramie-White - \$4,000 scholarship in honor of Chief Jacques Fontan

The Kelly Gibson Foundation had many proud partners of the 2020 Swing Hard for Soldiers golf tournament: Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust, Manning Lumber & Marine, Assurance Financial, Walmart, Ahead, the Class of 1986 at Brother Martin, McMath Construction, Alvarez & Marsal, Bill Hussey, Upperline Media, Cupcake Concept, Merrill Lynch, John Portwood, Bevolo Gas & Electric Lights, Greyson Clothiers, Resource Bank, Farm Bureau Insurance, Gulf States Contractors, Dabdoub Insurance & Investments, Freddie May & Direct Tire Town, Ballard Brands, PJ's Coffee, WOW American Eats, Banner Ford, Saffron Farms LLC, Gulf Coast Bank, Kevin Quirk & Harvest Connect LLC, Crown Buick/GMC, Mike Biguenet, GNO Properties, Pyre Restaurant, Coca-Cola, and John Bevington.

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.*

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>.*

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