



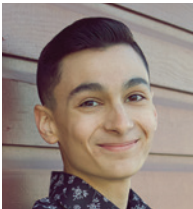
BILLY MICHAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Billy Michal Student Leadership Award is given annually to one student from each state and the District of Columbia who demonstrates the American spirit in his or her community.

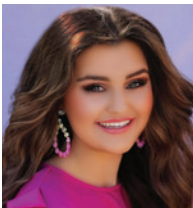
The values of leadership, teamwork, tolerance, creativity, and perseverance can and should be learned and lived by all Americans regardless of age. When six-year-old Billy Michal from Zimmerman, Louisiana, helped his one-room school win a statewide scrap metal collection contest during World War II, he understood that every citizen—no matter how small—could contribute to our victory in the war. His example, and the actions of millions of other students on the Home Front, reminds us that service to country and community helps create active, engaged citizens. Through this award, The National WWII Museum promotes these values to students nationwide and honors those who exemplify them.



Benjamin Arn Madison, Alabama | Bob Jones High School, Grade 11
Benjamin is a student athlete in his junior year at Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama. He is a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Student Government Association, and Future Business Leaders of America; a church youth leader; and a varsity baseball player. He has volunteered locally, nationally, and internationally for various mission projects serving elderly, underprivileged youth, and impoverished communities. He is a leader in school, church, community, and athletic activities. He desires to continue his family's long legacy of military service through attendance at the United States Military or Naval Academies.



Jaeoni Amaker Eagle River, Alaska | Eagle River High School, Grade 11
Although new to Alaska, Jaeoni is an active participant in a range of activities at his high school, including Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Drill, Color Guard, National Honor Society, JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl, Kitty Hawk Air Society, and soccer. He also volunteers within his community and has collected donations for the Fisher House, donated to the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) of Alaska's Food Pantry, served dinner to military families at the United Service Organizations, and assisted with visitor services on behalf of Club Beyond and ASYMCA at Alaska's Annual Salute to the Military. Jaeoni is currently working on instituting a military peer-to-peer club at his school, which will benefit transitioning military peers.



Ashley Nevison Scottsdale, Arizona | Arizona State University Prep Digital, Grade 9
Ashley founded Sargeant's Army, her 501(c)3, in 2018 when her cat Sargeant died of cancer. What started as an organization sewing cat toys now provides hope, dignity, and kindness in multiple ways: 1) cat and dog toys to animal rescues, 2) Hope Bags filled with hygiene items, and 3) her reading with purpose program. Ashley has donated more than 22,000 Hope Bags across Arizona and three other states and has raised over \$50,000 through fundraising, grants, and book sales of her own children's books that she writes, illustrates, and publishes. She also highlights changemakers in the community on her podcast, *One World, One Future*.



Trinity Foster Crossett, Arkansas | Crossett High School, Grade 11
Trinity Foster is a nationally ranked public speaker and an ambitious and determined student at Crossett High School. As the Arkansas state president of Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda and a participant in various service organizations, Trinity strives to utilize her unique perspective to improve the lives of others. Trinity is a section leader of the CHS band and serves as a member of the CHS Eaglettes, Student Council, and Student Ambassadors. She is co-captain of the CHS Quiz Bowl, as well as a member of the Universal Dance Association, Arkansas 4-H, Senator John Boozman's Congressional Cabinet, and the local All-American Future Business Leaders of America National Beta Club.



Alina Susu Sacramento, California | Natomas Pacific Pathways Preparatory High School, Grade 12
Shortly after the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, Alina decided she wanted to make a change in her community by creating Refugees in Crisis, a club dedicated to aiding refugees and warmly welcoming them to Sacramento. Through Refugees in Crisis, Alina has collected hundreds of donations and helped multiple Afghan families resettling in Sacramento. Beyond Refugees in Crisis, Alina leads her school's Key Club, is the MVP of her Mock Trial team, and is an active member of the National Honor Society, Animal and Environmental Club, and the Black Student Union. She plans to attend college this fall.



Riley Cooper Broomfield, Colorado | Peak to Peak Charter School, Grade 12
Riley is a senior at Peak to Peak Charter School and an active alumna of the Colorado Student Leaders Institute, where she works to promote civic responsibility. Riley co-founded her school's Feminism Club, through which she led a menstrual product drive that collected more than 8,000 items and also led a successful blood drive for those with pregnancy-related complications. She also empowers and serves as a mentor for students like herself with learning disabilities through the Eye to Eye organization. In her free time, Riley enjoys reading, kayaking, and watching movies. She will attend Whitman College on the teaching track in the next academic year.



Mihika Joshi South Windsor, Connecticut | Timothy Edwards Middle School, Grade 8
Mihika is an 8th-grade student who strongly believes in being the change that you want to see in the world. Mihika founded the Home of the Brave program, honoring more than 50 veterans and documenting their stories to inspire younger generations. During the pandemic, Mihika raised funds and volunteered for 200 hours distributing food and PPE kits in several vulnerable communities. She is committed to numerous causes, including the environment, the fight against hunger, and supporting veterans. She has been recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Gold Award, Connecticut Student Writers Contest Gold Award, and the Girl Scout Silver Award.



Brett Cressman Newark, Delaware | Christiana High School, Grade 10
Brett Cressman is a 10th-grade student from Newark, Delaware. He is active in many programs both inside and outside of school, including soccer, track and field, Boy Scouts of America, Delaware Football Club, and the NJROTC program. In his troop, he has held many leadership positions and has participated in numerous service projects. As a cadet in the NJROTC program this year, Brett served as the supply officer and was active on the drill team. Brett also spends his summers working at Rodney Scout Reservation on the Chesapeake Bay as a lifeguard teaching swimming, lifesaving, and snorkeling.



Alexis Buggam Margate, Florida | Atlantic Technical High School, Grade 11
Alexis is a junior in the nursing program at Atlantic Technical High School. She is an advocate for mental wellness in her community. During the pandemic, she organized a body positivity webinar for her school despite the challenges of remote learning. This year, she and her team won the FTX hackathon for coming up with Eudai, a mental wellness app that connects youth with mentors and other youth. Through her work with Bridge2Life, Alexis has promoted events aimed at informing students of higher education and career opportunities.



Bryn Audrey Hammock Buford, Georgia | Mill Creek High School, Grade 12
Bryn Hammock, a senior at Mill Creek High School in Hoschton, is a student athletic trainer for football, a club soccer player, and a swimmer. She is active in community service and was one of 42 metro Atlanta students chosen for the prestigious IDEALS Leadership School. Bryn received the Girl Scouts' Gold Award, earned by fewer than 6 percent of Scouts nationally. Her project was creating bead-filled gloves, "Tiny Hugs," to nurture NICU babies across Georgia, earning the Gold Award Council Young Women of Distinction Award. Three of Bryn's great grandfathers served the United States in World War II.





Hannah Little Meridian, Idaho | Renaissance High School, Grade 12
Hannah Little is a rising senior and an aspiring educator. Her love of history and learning has led her to leadership roles in her community and school, such as National History Day, Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council, and Academic Decathlon. She has enjoyed working with peers and younger students through different clubs and schools to mentor and share the things she has learned. Inspired by her own mentors and teachers, Hannah hopes to teach history to high school students. She hopes to share her love of history and inspire the next generation to not only learn and grow, but improve themselves as well as their communities.



Ariella Poi Glen Ellyn, Illinois | Glen Crest Middle School, Grade 8
Ariella has a passion to help and care for animals. She has collected donations for the humane society and raised awareness for safe pet travel as part of her Lego Robotics team by creating a prototype of a pet plane. With her Girl Scout troop, Ariella collected thousands of plastic bottle caps to create a bench, which was donated to her school and recognized by state representative Terra Costa Howard. Setting up a beach cleaning station is another project underway to keep trash out of waterways since it can harm wildlife and interfere with people’s enjoyment of nature.



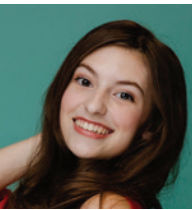
Isaac Rentschler Columbia City, Indiana | Columbia City High School, Grade 11
At the age of seven, Isaac was diagnosed with an aggressive soft tissue cancer in his left eye socket that he spent the next year fighting with chemotherapy and proton radiation. He was able to beat his cancer and all the odds stacked against him. Isaac has a passion for giving back to the community that gave so generously to him and for helping other families deal with the struggles of a pediatric cancer diagnosis. He recently finished a fundraiser program for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, raising over \$30,000 for research and family support.



Wren Menke Algona, Iowa | Algona High School, Grade 12
Wren Menke is a senior at Algona High School. She is involved in numerous activities such as band, theater, and academic decathlon. Among all these activities, she prioritizes a healthy interest in history. Between restoring local museum exhibits to cataloging WWII veteran interviews, Wren can often be found in the library or her history teacher’s classroom. She has handled the organization, cataloging, and digitizing of local history in a preservation effort that will benefit generations to come. She has also secured multiple grants to help her museum.



William Hare Mulvane, Kansas | Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School, Grade 12
William is a 12th-grade student at Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School in Wichita, Kansas. He is an active volunteer at The Lord’s Diner, where he prepares and serves dinner for those in need. He volunteered to work the traveling Vietnam War Wall Memorial. William also participated in History Day for three years. All of his topics were centered around World War II. His third year, he earned first place in his district and third place in the state competition. He participates in service projects with his youth group at St. Mary Catholic Church in Derby, Kansas.



Lavery Malena Hughes Glasgow, Kentucky | Barren County High School, Grade 12
Malena knew there was a need in rural Kentucky to research the impact of equine parasite resistance to dewormers, so she obtained a sponsorship from a veterinary medicine supplier of dewormer for horse owners and rescues, and she determined through her research that resistance had not yet developed. Malena plans to specialize in veterinary pathology and aspires to continue serving through this career. Malena conducts service projects through Beta Club, of which she is president, including volunteering with the local animal shelter and veterinary clinic. She also is captain of the academic team, Broadcasting Club President, and a member of mock trial team and mock government.



Autumn Herring Holden, Louisiana | Walker High School, Grade 11
As a national top five leader of Beta, the Service Chairwoman of Louisiana 4-H Citizenship Board, and a junior docent of LSU Rural Life Museum, Autumn works tirelessly on a variety of projects.

Autumn has worked as a tour guide and a junior artisan of beeswax candle-making, blacksmithing, and hearth-fire cooking at an 1800s museum; sewed masks for healthcare workers during the pandemic; helped plan and implement a statewide adolescent mental health youth retreat and art contest; and advocated for mandatory mental health classes in high schools. Autumn is dedicated to both bettering the future and preserving the past.



Grace Davie Sanford, Maine | Sanford High School, Grade 12
While volunteering with and serving as an advisory board member for the Sanford Backpack Program, which provides food weekly to students experiencing food insecurity, Grace was tasked with the challenge of creating a holiday initiative in 2020. Grace founded the Box of Joy campaign, which is a box of pantry staples and favorite holiday items. To date, 325 boxes have been donated and placed with students. It is important to Grace that this meaningful work continue, and she has passed the responsibility of this initiative to her brother. She will attend Brigham Young University in the fall.



Zoe Tobery Frederick, Maryland | Walkersville High School, Grade 12
Zoe graduated from Walkersville High School in Frederick, Maryland. Her History Day project earned second place in the performance category at the state competition. Zoe served as a Student Service Learning aide for a WWII history class and volunteered as an intern for the World War II: American Experience Museum. Zoe was an active member of Student Government Association, National Honor Society, English Honor Society, and Creative Writing Club. Zoe was selected to represent her peers as a member of the Senior Executive Board and Student Voices Program, as an emcee for the annual FCPS Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, and as a graduation speaker.



Monnavi Un Lowell, Massachusetts | Lowell Catholic High School, Grade 12
Monnavi has always been committed to leading through example, often striving to better the lives of those around her—whether through small actions or bigger ones, such as spearheading a Pan-Mass Challenge bracelet fundraiser for a local cancer patient as a member of the National Honor Society. Due to Monnavi’s contagious optimism and work ethic, she was chosen to be trained as a mentor to eventually lead civility retreats for local 7th and 8th graders. Monnavi has also been an active volunteer, completing over 165 hours throughout her high school years at elementary schools and annually at the Baystate Marathon.





Aubrey Laine MacIntosh Pentwater, Michigan | Pentwater Public Schools, Grade 12
Aubrey has participated in the National Honor Society, Green Schools, Student Council (which included founding “Code Red,” giving access to menstrual products to students in need during the school day), Spanish and Art Club, Be Nice, The Oceana Prevention Partnership for Change, White Lake Youth Theatre Student Council, yearbook, bands, Polar Plunge, competitive gymnastics, and track. Some awards she’s received include the 2021 Directors Band Award, the Green School Award, Scholar Athlete Award, Pentwater Service Club Student of the Month 2022, 1 rating at solo & ensemble, and the 2022 West Michigan’s Student Showcase for her composition “Dancing on Jupiter.”



Katherine Kregness Eden Prairie, Minnesota | Eden Prairie High School, Grade 12
Katherine is a senior at Eden Prairie High School. She holds leadership positions in her school’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Dare 2 Be Real, and Student Superintendent Advisory Council. She has worked as an intern for local LGBTQIA+ advocacy organizations, Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, and mutual aid for the Minneapolis community after the murder of George Floyd. Kregness has spent the past three years developing a series of professional development trainings for the staff of her high school to build equitable practices. This year, she worked with fellow students to establish a student office of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to increase student voice of marginalized communities in school leadership through an Equity Development Center.



Stanley Qu Ridgeland, Mississippi | St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, Grade 12
Four years after Stanley’s mother was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2014, he decided he wanted to make hair loss optional for women battling cancer. He founded his nonprofit that provides cold caps (a device that prevents hair loss for chemotherapy patients) free of charge to women in Mississippi in 2020 and is now working to make cold caps as readily available as possible to as many people as possible.



Samantha Doecker Washington, Missouri | Washington High School, Grade 12
Samantha is a senior at Washington High School in Washington, Missouri. She currently serves as president of the Quiz Bowl team, President of the Interact Club, President of Mu Alpha Theta, founding member of the VEX Robotics team, Principal of 2nd violins in the WHS Orchestra, and Vice President of the Gay-Straight Alliance Club. She created a schoolwide Pride Week and organized a day of silence to educate the community on LGBTQ+ issues. She has been selected by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals as one of Missouri’s top 100 high school seniors. Samantha will attend the University of Chicago.



Elaine Reed Columbia Falls, Montana | Columbia Falls High School, Grade 11
Elaine is an active member of Boy Scouts of America (BSA)—holding the rank of Eagle Scout—and of National Honor Society. At the beginning of the pandemic during the mask shortage, Elaine sewed fabric masks for the Montana Veteran’s Home and local assisted living homes. She received the BSA Medal of Merit. Living next to her great-grandfather, a WWII veteran, Elaine learned to cheerfully serve her community. In high school, she has worked on service projects in Glacier National Park, restored flowerbeds at her church, helps her local Lions Club, and is restoring woodland areas on Melita Island in Flathead Lake. She will lead Montana’s BSA National Youth Leadership Training course in June.



Joslyn Stamp Plattsmouth, Nebraska | Brownell-Talbot School, Grade 8
Joslyn’s volunteerism started in the 4th grade when she brought marker recycling to her elementary school. In total, she has collected more than 12,000 markers, dry erase markers, and highlighters for recycling through Crayola ColorCycle. As a Buddy Bison Ambassador for the National Park Trust, she promotes and protects parks and historical landmarks through volunteer work, social media, blogging, workshops, and public speaking. To help kids cope with stress, Joslyn offers free mindfulness workshops. Her project is called Clearer Thinking Through Mindfulness, and it is offered through the Nebraska 4-H Gives Back program.



Abigail Panariso Las Vegas, Nevada | Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, Grade 10
Abigail is a Gold Award Girl Scout and a volunteer with Honor Flight Southern Nevada (HFSN). Abigail founded the Abigail C.A.R.E.S. for Veterans Program, which honors veterans by organizing events, purchasing wheelchairs for HFSN, and making sure every veteran at the VA Home gets the gifts they wanted for Christmas. During the pandemic, Abigail saw how elderly veterans in nursing facilities were feeling forgotten. She organized caravan parades in Las Vegas and the surrounding cities, and organized pizza, craft, and holiday parties at the VA Home in Boulder City to make sure the veterans felt honored, respected, and appreciated every day.



Olivia Rose DeAngelis Concord, New Hampshire | Concord High School, Grade 11
Olivia is always looking for ways to be involved and give back. During the summer months, Olivia volunteered much of her time maintaining several of the flowerbeds throughout the NH State Veterans Cemetery. The time spent caring for the gardens was not only appreciated by families who visited but also recognized by an officer of the NH National Guard. Additionally, Olivia partnered with the Green Beret Foundation to help raise money for Special Forces soldiers and their families. Olivia raised over \$500, exceeding her original goal. The foundation later recognized her as the youngest person to do so.



Milton James “Jamie” Deputy III Williamstown, New Jersey | Williamstown High School, Grade 12
Jamie is a charismatic, assiduous student who is well respected by his community for his ambition, drive, and passion for education, especially history. He exemplifies leadership in class with thought-provoking ideas to help others learn. He has chosen extra history electives to further his knowledge. Jamie is a devout JROTC Air Force member and has held leadership positions throughout his four years. Jamie played soccer all four years and volunteers with lake preservation and veteran services. He looks forward to becoming a history professor to share his passion with others.



Elliott Saiontz Chappaqua, New York | Horace Greeley High School, Grade 10
After participating in the HBO documentary *The Number on Great Grandpa’s Arm* with his great-grandfather, an Auschwitz Survivor, Elliott has dedicated his time over the past four years to educating on the dangers of hate by conducting question-and-answer sessions with K-12 students and college students as well as in churches, libraries, museums, and teacher training seminars. He teaches about the importance of standing up to hate, taking action when you witness bullying or an injustice, and being kind to everyone. Elliott’s ongoing educational efforts are helping to create a more inclusive generation of individuals.





James Michael Williamson Vass, North Carolina | Sandhills Classical Christian School, Grade 8
James is a devoted patriot and volunteer. For his Eagle Scout project, James created a monument dedicated to our nation's female veterans. Through a podcast and informational board at the monument, he highlights a different female veteran each week. James has adopted a local cemetery to sponsor for Wreaths Across America. He has constructed and maintains two flag retirement boxes at the Fayetteville VA Healthcare Center and a local barber shop. As the Senior Patrol Leader of his BSA Troop and Den Chief to the pack, he organizes multiple activities and fundraisers. He also volunteers with his school's mission trip team.



Anna Elsen Hecla, South Dakota | Ellendale Public School, Grade 12
Anna Elsen is a senior at Ellendale High School. She is currently the EHS Student Council President, President of the EHS Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and an Officer for her local Future Farmers of America chapter. She was chosen to participate in the National History Day Sacrifice for Freedom Student Teacher Institute: WWII in the Pacific. She researched Lyle Slocumb, a hometown airman who fought and died in World War II. She honored him in Hawaii in 2021 with her mentor and published her research. She is active in an array of activities.



Katie Wells Baltimore, Ohio | Liberty Union - Thurston Local Schools, Grade 12
Katie is a senior at Liberty Union High School in Baltimore, Ohio. Katie is a dedicated student who values academics and giving back to her community. She coaches a U-6 soccer team at the local rec association and is involved in other clubs such as National Honor Society, Student Council, and the Student Athlete Leadership Team. Along with clubs, Katie volunteers at her local after school program, tutors fellow students, helps at soccer camps, and more.



Elizabeth Cantrell Wagoner, Oklahoma | Wagoner High School, Grade 12
Elizabeth is a graduating senior from Wagoner High School in Wagoner, Oklahoma. She participated in several clubs and organizations, such as varsity cross country, varsity track, Student Council, Leadership, National Honor Society, and others. One annual leadership project that she has held close to her heart has been creating mental health initiatives. Through her work with these projects, Elizabeth became more aware of the troubles faced by teens in her community. She saw a need for and helped create safe spaces within the school for students to go if they needed to refocus or recharge themselves.



Cole Carnes Grants Pass, Oregon | Grants Pass High School, Grade 10
Cole was born in Grants Pass, Oregon, where he is currently a sophomore at Grants Pass High School. He has been elected into student government while taking advanced courses and tutoring peers. He is also a three-sport varsity athlete in football, wrestling, and baseball. He volunteers as a youth wrestling coach, a baseball umpire and football referee, a reading buddy at the elementary schools, and cleans out horse stalls at the Moomaw Ranch. He loves everything World War III! Being Oregon's Billy Michal Leadership Award winner and visiting The National WWII Museum is a dream come true for Cole.



Emily Truitt New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania | Redbank Valley Junior/Senior High School, Grade 10
Growing up with a mother who struggles with PTSD wasn't easy for Emily. When she was 12, Emily approached her parents with an idea. She wanted to create a veterans memorial garden—a place where people could go to sit, relax, and enjoy a beautiful view. Through the support of her family and her community, Emily developed a plan to build a Victory Garden, where veterans and other community members could gather when life gets too overwhelming. Her Victory Garden has a focus of tranquility and peace and consists of different memorials, flags, a waterfront view, and lots of flowers. Aside from her work with Victory Garden, Emily is a member of the Redbank Valley Marching Band and Concert Band. She is also a member of Modern Music Masters and her school's track and field team. She previously won the American Legion Auxiliary Essay contest and lettered in her school's marching band for playing both flute and piccolo.



Katherine Sweeney Warwick, Rhode Island | Toll Gate High School, Grade 11
Katherine is a junior at Toll Gate High School in Warwick, Rhode Island. Katherine has always had a passion for history and learning. She was awarded the RI Secretary of State's Civic Leadership award. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, and she is a varsity tennis athlete. She is a type 1 diabetic and involved with the Camp Surefire Foundation as a Junior Counselor. She was a Girl Scout for 10 years and earned her Silver Award. She has contributed to her community by volunteering at the library's reading program and engaging in service projects through her church.



Parker Bradford Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina | Palmetto Christian Academy, Grade 11
Parker is very passionate about the outdoors, wildlife preservation, and aquatic environments. In 2018 he was asked by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Division of Marine Fisheries to participate in their fish tagging program, and he works with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to use empty oyster shells to restore reefs. Parker was awarded his Eagle Scout in February 2022 and works hard to support veterans through the Honor Flight Program, the Boy Scouts of America honorable Flag Retirement program, and Memorial Day flag placement for veteran graves. Parker continues to dedicate his energy to our country.



Joseph VanOverschelde Mitchell, South Dakota | Mitchell High School, Grade 12
Joseph has dedicated over 200 hours of volunteer service to Mitchell football and wrestling programs by coaching kids from grades 1–8. Joseph has been active in his church and has led a youth group in the summer at Bible school. He has always believed in helping the youth in his town and teaching them about God, respect, and leadership. Through experiences and studying our nation's history and government, he has focused his leadership style to emphasize American values and principles to help others grow into contributing members of society in America.



Sole Isaac Memphis, Tennessee | Overton High School, Grade 11
Whether helping at school or working with local churches. Sole endeavors to assist her community. At Overton High School, she serves as the Executive Secretary of Key Club International and is a member of the National Honor Society. For three years, Sole has also participated in Best Buddies International, which provides a one-to-one friendship to special education students. She uses her creative background, including seven years of piano training, to give back to the elderly in retirement homes. During her adolescence, this experience allowed her to travel out of the country to Ireland and Canada to perform.





Kate-Yeonjae Jeong **Houston, Texas** | Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Grade 10
Kate is a sophomore attending Kinder HSPVA with a concentration in creative writing. She serves as the Editor-in-Chief of her school newspaper and Underclassmen Liaison of Student Council. Kate is interested in integrating her artistic background with public health and ethics, and is a longtime volunteer at the county hospital and advocate for patient safety through Patient Safety Movement Foundation. A keen communicator and driven community changer, Kate founded Light Up Network, an organization that fosters intergenerational connections and prevents elderly isolation through art performances. In partnership with nursing homes, VA hospitals, and nonprofits nationwide, Light Up Network celebrates the joy art brings.



Anika Rao **Salt Lake City, Utah** | West High School, Grade 11
Anika is a junior at West High School. She is passionate about creating an inclusive community that values diversity and equity, and has focused her service on achieving this goal through her role as the Editor-in-Chief of her high school's newspaper and volunteering with the Mundi Project, Salt Lake City Peer Court, Salt Lake City Public Library, and National Honor Society and Key Club at her school. She is a four-time recipient of the Utah Lieutenant Governor's Service Award, and was awarded the University of Utah's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Leadership Award and Youthlinc Utah Young Humanitarian Award. She is also a two-time national qualifier for the National History Day contest.



Sydney Adreon **Vergennes, Vermont** | Rice Memorial High School, Grade 11
When COVID-19 struck, Sydney felt isolated while noticing that others around her were struggling with similar feelings. In response, Sydney and two friends started #VTWeGotThis through social media to stay connected. For Sydney, this campaign was the start of her fight to raise awareness about mental health among her peers. This past year, she started a chapter of Hope Happens Here at her school, which brings awareness of the importance of mental health among student-athletes. Hope Happens Here emphasizes that it is "okay to not be okay." Sydney participates in a variety of other activities at her school and in her community.



Percell Jackson **Richmond, Virginia** | Glen Allen High School, Grade 12
Percell enjoys aviation, taekwondo, Boy Scouts of America (BSA), traveling, chess, and coding. Percell has been involved with BSA for 12 years and holds the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout community service project, he planned, designed, and created a 9/11 memorial honoring first responders for Henrico County Division of Fire. The memorial incorporates a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. Percell has studied taekwondo for the past eight years and is a second degree black belt. A member of the Latin Honor Society and Jack and Jill of America, Percell plans to major in flight education and become a commercial pilot. He currently holds his student pilot's license.



Jean Lin **Camas, Washington** | Union High School, Grade 11
Jean is a junior at Union High School in Camas, Washington. She is actively involved in organizations such as the Future Business Leaders of America, where she serves as a four-time State Officer and Executive Director of Public Policy on the National Presidents Council. Outside of business, Jean is active in the community and founded the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Leaders Across the World (LATW) to connect youth worldwide to discuss and act on critical global issues. LATW has reached thousands of students and has had more than 450 individuals from more than 45 countries participate in its six-week virtual exchange programs.



Jaelyn Jett **Orma, West Virginia** | Calhoun Middle High School, Grade 11
Jaelyn is a junior at Calhoun Middle High School in West Virginia. She is now one of the oldest members of her 4-H group, Future Farmers of America, and her church, meaning she has different leadership roles within the groups advising younger children. She has three national titles with National History Day, among other history-affiliated projects. Within her school, Jaelyn has been a part of class officers and student council officers, currently holding the position of Vice President for the student council. After school, Jaelyn also peer tutors and helps with different community outreach programs and events.



Ruby Homer-Wambeam **Laramie, Wyoming** | Home School, Grade 12
Ruby applies her love of cooking to raise funds for social causes like homelessness, reproductive health, and Ukrainian refugees. She volunteers in the high school special education classroom, belongs to the Best Buddies club, and is Treasurer for the Multicultural Club. She has won multiple Wyoming History Day awards and passed a bill to limit the cost of insulin at the Wyoming American Legion Girls State. Ruby traveled to Washington, D.C., as the Wyoming representative for the National Pro-Start Culinary Competition. In the fall, Ruby will attend the University of Wyoming, majoring in special education and dance as a student in the Honors College.





EDUCATION AT THE MUSEUM

The National WWII Museum is a dynamic educational resource, serving the needs of teachers and students from grade school through the postgraduate level.

Through exhibitions, on-site programs, distance learning, and online resources, teachers and students from all backgrounds can explore the values and beliefs—the universal concepts—that Americans and their Allies embraced during World War II. Proceeds from the American Spirit Awards will support educational programming at the Museum—including the ongoing development of classroom materials and professional-development opportunities for teachers in schools across the country, as well as online experiences that bring the Museum and its resources to students around the world.

The National WWII Museum extends its gratitude to the 2022 Four Star Normandy Academy and Three Star Student Leadership Academy Sponsors—whose contributions have made it possible to provide all-expenses-paid scholarships for selected students to participate in the Normandy Academy, which takes students from our New Orleans campus to the beaches of France—or Student Leadership Academy, which offers hands-on, behind-the-scenes learning at America’s National WWII Museum. Each program includes the option to earn college credit while exploring leadership and decision-making during World War II.



About the Museum

Initially opened in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum, The National WWII Museum now goes far beyond that crucial landing on June 6, 1944, to tell the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.

Covering everything from industrial efforts on the Home Front to the combat experience of the American servicemember abroad, the Museum offers an impactful blend of sweeping narrative and poignant personal detail, featuring immersive exhibits, state-of-the-art multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of artifacts and first-person oral histories to take visitors inside the story of the war. Beyond the campus experience, the Museum’s extensive online digital collections and distance-learning opportunities promote WWII education at all levels while offering patrons of all ages new ways to connect to history and honor the generation that sacrificed so much to secure our freedom.

Designated by Congress in 2004 as America’s National WWII Museum, the Museum is located in the Warehouse District of New Orleans, the manufacturing home of the famed Higgins landing crafts that delivered American soldiers to their D-Day landings. Across a six-acre campus, six soaring pavilions house historical exhibits, retail outlets, restaurants, a performance theater modeled on entertainment venues for WWII servicemembers, the 4D experience *Beyond All Boundaries* (narrated by Tom Hanks), the interactive *Final Mission: USS Tang Submarine Experience*, and—soon—the first-of-its-kind nighttime sound and light experience *Expressions of America*. The on-site Higgins Hotel and Conference Center opened in 2019, and a capital expansion program funding the current construction of the Museum’s capstone pavilion—Liberation Pavilion—will cement the institution as a state-of-the-art educational facility and a premier destination for travelers from around the world when complete in the coming years.