

On the evening of June 6, the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation gathered new scholars, parents, special guests, board members, and staff to celebrate the achievements of the 2025 Scholars awarded a Submarine Force Scholarship at the Virginia Beach Surf & Rescue Museum. Six local scholars were in attendance. Read more on page 3.

Congratulations Submarine Force Scholars!

In a banner year for Dolphin Scholarship Foundation, over **\$550,000** in scholarship grants will be awarded to Submarine Force Scholars. This year, we added an additional 38 impressive students who have been awarded the title of Dolphin Scholar. Additionally, DSF awarded the following administered scholarships: 10 USS Bowfin Memorial, 3 Laura W. Bush USS Texas (SSN 775), 2 USS Colorado (SSN 788), 2 USS Delaware (SSN 791), 2 USS Hampton (USS 767), 1 USS Indiana (SSN 789) Diane Donald, 1 USS Montana (SSN 794), 4 USS Nautilus (SSN 571/SS 168), 1 USS Oregon (SSN 793) and 1 USS Washington (SSN 787) Scholarship. We wish all of our selectees great success in their academic endeavors.

We would like to thank our esteemed selection committee for their efforts: Mrs. Dana Richardson - former DSF Chairperson; Dr. Jane Grenfell Duffey - daughter of DSF founder, Martha Grenfell; Mrs. Kate Connor - former DSF Chairperson; Ms. Cathleen Connolly - 1975 Dolphin Scholar; Mrs. Gretchen Juergens - educator and submarine spouse; Mrs. Monica San Jose - STEM educator; Mrs. Tara Lebouvier-Lilleberg - former college admissions counselor; and CMDRCM(SS) Dustin Bruner, USN - Submarine Readiness Squadron 32 Command Master Chief. Learn more about our scholars starting on the next page.

Scholar Spotlight: Emmalyn Siclare

Emmalyn Siclare earned both the Dolphin Scholarship and USS Nautilus Scholarship in 2023. She has renewed her Dolphin Scholarship each year and has reapplied and earned the USS Nautilus Scholarship every year since with her stellar efforts in the classroom, and involvement in her school and community.

Emmalyn shares her educational journey and the impact these scholarships have had on her studies on page 8.

What Does a Scholarship Mean to You?

"It is truly an honor to be recognized as a SubForce Scholar. I can't express how grateful I am for this opportunity, not just for the support in my studies, but for what it represents. This award reflects the dedication and hard work my father has put into his service over the years, and being able to honor that means so much to me. Receiving this scholarship will be an incredible help as I continue my education, and I'm determined to make the absolute best of it. Thank you to everyone who runs this program, the generous donors, and my father for supporting me on my collegiate journey."



Eva Jacinto
Ringling College of Art & Design
Computer Animation
Laura W. Bush
Scholarship



Amy Anderson
Tidewater Community
College
Paralegal Studies
Dolphin Store - Pearl
Harbor, HI Scholarship

"Being a SubForce Scholar means honoring my father's years of service and commitment by pursuing higher education. I am incredibly grateful for the support both our troops and this scholarship will provide."

"Being selected as a SubForce Scholar is an incredible honor that recognizes the strength and resilience of life as a submarine spouse. This scholarship not only supports my educational journey, but also values the Silent Service community and its supporting families. I am proud to represent the Submarine Force and honor the legacy of those that serve below the sea."

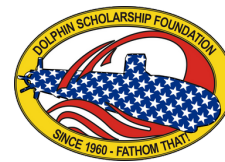


Jacob Kidd
University of Alabama
Elementary Education
RADM Phil, Nancy & Tricia Davis
Scholarship



Colton Willard
University of San Diego
Biology
Richard & Carol Hayward
Scholarship

"Being selected for a Dolphin Scholarship is a huge honor. I have always been proud to say that my father served 20 years in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear submariner. Now I get to honor his dedication to our country as I pursue a degree in Biology at UC Santa Barbara with the goal of becoming a dentist."



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Scholar Reception



DSF celebrated the newly selected 2025 Submarine Force Scholars at the Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum on June 6, 2025. Six local scholars, their families, special guests, and DSF board and staff members were in attendance. Pictured above from left to right are DSF Chairperson – Renea Gaucher, DSF Board of Directors President – RADM Steven W. Maas, SC, USN (Ret.), Nolan Greene – Scholar Parent Association Scholarship, EMNI(SS)Eric Rodriguez, USN – USS Montana (SSN 794) Scholarship, Samantha Radford – USS Hampton (SSN 767) and Hampton Roads Submarine Officers’ Spouses’ Association Scholarships, DSF Executive Director – Andrew Clark, Charlise Albers – RADM & Mrs. Steven W. Maas, SC, USN (Ret.) Scholarship, Shyla Generals – USS Washington (SSN 787) Scholarship, Kayla Lovell – USS Bowfin Memorial and Norfolk Submarine Officers’ Spouses’ Association Scholarships, DSF Scholarship Administrator – Julianne Bottomley, and DSF Board Member – Dr. Shauna E. Tonkin, PhD.



Andrew Clark awards Shyla Generals the USS Washington (SSN 787) Scholarship.



Renea Gaucher awards Nolan Greene the Scholar Parent Association Scholarship.



Dr. Shauna Tonkin awards Kayla Lovell the USS Bowfin Memorial Scholarship on behalf of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association.

Congratulations to Our New 2025 Scholars!

Charlise Albers
Carrollton, VA
RADM & Mrs. Steven W. Maas, SC, USN
(Ret.) Scholar

Amy Anderson
Virginia Beach, VA
Dolphin Store – Pearl Harbor, HI Scholar

Emma Anderson
Camarillo, CA
Beekman Point Engineering Scholar

Juliana Anderson
Virginia Beach, VA
USS Delaware (SSN 791) Scholar

Madeline Anderson
East Lyme, CT
Violet Early Memorial Scholar

Emily Barrett
Port Orchard, WA
Submarine Officers' Spouses' Charitable
Association – Washington Scholar

Hannah Baugh
Silverdale, WA
Submarine Officers' Spouses' Charitable
Association – Washington Scholar

Mason Chmielewski
Poulsbo, WA
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar &
Submarine Officers' Spouses' Charitable
Association – Washington Scholar

Olivia Costello
Hilton Head Island, SC
Pearl Harbor Submarine Spouses'
Charitable Association Scholar

Adele Daniels
Greenfield Center, NY
Pearl Harbor Submarine Spouses' Charitable
Association Scholar

Lily Ditman
Suffolk, VA
Laura W. Bush Scholar

Saige Flores
Midlothian, TX
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar &
USS Wyoming (SSBN 742) Honorary Scholar
on behalf of Kings Bay SOSA

Grace Forry
Columbia, PA
USS Von Steuben (SSBN 632) Scholar

Shyla Generals
Norfolk, VA
USS Washington (SSN 787) Scholar

Kathryn Gielegem
Gales Ferry, CT
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nations Scholar

Aidan Greene
Harwood, MD
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar &
EMCM(SS) Robert D. Ice, USN (Ret.) Scholar

Nolan Greene
Virginia Beach, VA
Scholar Parent Association Scholar

William Greene
Harwood, MD
USS John Warner (SSN 785) Scholar

Congratulations to Our New 2025 Scholars!

STS2(SS) Joseph Gutierrez, USN (Disch.)
Colorado Springs, CO
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Hammond
Duxbury, MA
USS Nautilus (SSN 571/SS 168) Scholar

Taylor Hammond
Bridgewater, MA
USS Nautilus (SSN 571/SS 168) Scholar

Gabriel Huff
Gales Ferry, CT
Groton Submarine Officers' Spouses'
Charitable Association Scholar

Eva Jacinto
Dalton, MA
Laura W. Bush Scholar

Carter Jaehn
Virginia Beach, VA
Hampton Roads Submarine Officers'
Spouses' Association Scholar

Jessica Kendrick
Santa Clara, CA
San Diego Submarine Spouses Scholar

Jacob Kidd
Tuscaloosa, AL
RADM Phil, Nancy, & Tricia Davis Scholar

Mariel King
Virginia Beach, VA
Hampton Roads Submarine Officers'
Spouses' Association Scholarship

MMN1(SS) David Knittel, USN (Disch.)
Ballston Spa, NY
USS Delaware (SSN 791) Scholar

Kayla Lovell
North Huntington, PA
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar
Norfolk Submarine Officers' Spouses'
Association Scholar

Andrew Luff
Alexandria, VA
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar
ADM & Mrs. Bruce DeMars Scholar

Sarah Mabry
Blytheville, AR
Mrs. Janice Wilkenson Scholar

Kathryn Martin
Papillion, NE
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar
Laura W. Bush Scholar

Evangeline Micheli
Groton, CT
USS Indiana (SSN 789) Diane Donald
Scholar

Alexis Nawara
West Roxbury, MA
Society of Sponsors of the U.S. Navy Scholar

Madison O'Donnell
Uncasville, CT
USS Colorado (SSN 788) Scholar

William O'Donnell
Groton, CT
Commander Submarine Squadron 2 & PCU
District of Columbia (SSBN 826) Honorary
Scholar

Kaden Maxwell Penetrante
Chula Vista, CA
San Diego Submarine Spouses Scholar

Congratulations to Our New 2025 Scholars!

Morgan Peterson
Glastonbury, CT
Mrs. Becky Schade Scholar

Morgen Piehl
Honolulu, HI
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar
Pearl Harbor Submarine Spouses'
Charitable Association Scholar

Samantha Radford
Virginia Beach, VA
USS Hampton (SSN 767) Scholar
Hampton Roads Submarine Officers'
Spouses' Association Scholar

Emerson Reifsteck
Arlington, VA
USS Hampton (SSN 767) Scholar

EMNI(SS) Eric Rodriguez, USN
Norfolk, VA
USS Montana (SSN 794) Scholarship

Ethan Sanders
Broken Bow, OK
Diane Donald Scholar

Rachel Seay
Ball Ground, GA
USS Florida (SSGN 728) Honorary
Scholarship on behalf of Kings Bay SOSA

Emmalyn Siclare
St Marys, GA
USS Nautilus (SSN 571/SS 168 Scholar)

Tate Stearns
Kingston, WA
Richard & Carol Hayward Scholar

Olivia Storz
Ledyard, CT
USS Colorado (SSN 788) Scholar

Meghan Strand
Fort Mill, SC
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar

Dachota Thebo
Groton, CT
Groton Submarine Officers' Spouses'
Charitable Association Scholar

Daniel Thompson
Kingsland, GA
USS Bowfin Memorial Scholar
USS West Virginia (SSBN 736) Honorary
Scholarship on behalf of Kings Bay SOSA

Colton Weed
Santee, CA
San Diego Submarine Spouses Scholar

Annabelle Whitney
Mystic, CT
USS Nautilus (SSN 571/SS 168) Scholar

Colton Willard
San Marcos, CA
Richard & Carol Hayward Scholar

Reimer Wolf
Kailua, HI
USS Oregon (SSN 793) Scholarship
Pearl Harbor Submarine Spouses'
Charitable Association Scholar

Caleb Young
Defiance, MO
BWX Technologies & Engineering Scholar

Scholar Selection Profile

What does it take to become a Dolphin Scholar? Below are some statistics on the caliber of student that was selected in 2025. As a rule, DSF staff and board members are not part of the selection process. All scholarship applications are reviewed by an independent selection committee. Scored applications do not contain any identifying information of the scholar nor their sponsors. The applicant is scored on academic rigor, extracurricular activities, essay, test scores, and references. Many students complete advanced courses, attend competitive schools, and are active in their communities, sports, and other programs.

Characteristics that are NOT scored are the sponsor's rank, duty assignment history, and demographic information. These data are collected for sponsor verification, analysis, and statistical purposes only, and are not provided to the selection committee.

Total Selected 2025 Dolphin Scholars: 33

Application Completion

134 DSF applications completed
17 Nautilus applications completed

High School Applications: 91
College Applications: 43

GPAs

High School: 4.23 (weighted)
College: 3.71

Demographics

Female: 17

Male: 16

Dependent Child: 31

Spouse: 2

Race/Ethnicity

Asian/Pacific Islander: 2

Biracial: 1

Caucasian: 28

Hispanic/Latino: 2

Sponsors

Active Duty: 13 Retired: 13 Discharged: 7
Officer: 27 CAPT: 8 CDR: 6 LCDR: 10 LT: 2 LTJG: 1
Enlisted: 6 MCPO: 1 SCPO: 3 CPO: 1 POI: 1

Scholarship	Applicants	Awarded	Selection Opportunity
Dolphin - 4 year	125	30	24%
Dolphin - 2 yr/Vocational	9	3	33.33%
Laura W. Bush	8	3	37.50%
USS Bowfin	53	10	18.87%
USS Colorado	4	2	50%
USS Delaware	4	2	50%
USS Hampton	7	2	28.57%
USS Indiana	1	1	100%
USS Montana	1	1	100%
USS Nautilus	17	4	23.53%
USS Oregon	1	1	100%
USS Washington	2	1	50%

Name:
Emmalyn Siclare

Major:
Nursing

School:
Georgia Southern University

Sponsor:
CDR Bennett Siclare, USN (Ret.)

2023-Present
Dolphin Scholar
USS Nautilus (SSN 571/SS 168)
Scholar



First Day of Nursing School

Scholar Spotlight

My name is Emmalyn Siclare, and I just finished my second year of college at Georgia Southern University. I was accepted into the Nursing Program last fall and completed my first semester of nursing school. I have learned so much in just one semester, it's amazing! I completed my first clinical rotation in a nursing home in Statesboro, GA, where I was able to observe, learn and begin to use some of my nursing skills.

My desire to enter the health care profession came early in life. I have always wanted to help people and knew that I would choose a career where that would be possible. I am considering different areas to specialize in nursing, but to date, have not made any definite decisions. I absolutely love children and am strongly considering going on to graduate school where I would study to become a nurse practitioner in labor and delivery or study to become a midwife. I enjoy being around babies and to be able to help bring new life into the world would be so amazing.

I will be exposed to many different areas during my next three semesters of nursing school such as mental health, emergency medicine, geriatrics, medical/surgical, labor and delivery, pediatrics, and acute and long-term care. After I have a chance to experience these different areas, I will be able to decide what area I would like to specialize in.

I am currently taking a summer nursing research class. As part of the Honors College, I will be required to present a research project just before graduation. This summer research class is extremely helpful in preparation for that and will also help prepare me for graduate school and any future research that I will encounter.

I am very active on campus. I am a member of the Catholic Eagles who promote fellowship and provide community service. I also enjoyed taking a class in music and singing that allowed me to become a member of the University Singers choir group. I am a member of the Student Nurses Association and a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society which emphasizes service and leadership.

Being a Dolphin Scholar has been such a blessing to me and my family. The financial assistance it has provided me has been amazing. Easing the burden of the cost of a higher education helps tremendously. Graduating with less or no debt from my undergraduate studies will be such an advantage in life and for that I am truly thankful. With the upcoming cost of graduate school in the near future, I am so very grateful for the generosity of the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation.

I am extremely thankful to all who support the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation. Dolphin Scholars have specific and important goals that we want to achieve, and I can tell you firsthand that without your tremendous support, it would be that much harder for us to achieve our goals.

I am so proud to have grown up as part of the submarine community. My dad, as well as all military members, work so hard and sacrifice so much for our country and their families. That means so much to me and it is never taken for granted. We live in such a great country, and I'm so proud of the military community that represents it.



Emmalyn with Dr. David Langley, Associate Professor of Music Education & Associate Director of Choral Activities at Georgia Southern University



Congratulations to our May 2025 Graduates!



Robert Bodien
Rochester Institute of
Technology
Mechanical Engineering



Curtis Buecker
University of
Connecticut
History & Political
Science



Grace Burkholder
Bethel University
Physics



Bryce Byford
Iowa State University
Environmental
Science



Camille Christie
Boston University
Computer Science



Hunter Clark
University of California
San Diego
Sociology



Faith Ettlich
Gordon College
Music



Kassandra Fort
Connecticut State
Community College
Business & Hospitality



Emma Furlan
The Ohio State
University
Psychology &
Economics



Logan Garwood
University of Washington
Mathematics, Physics &
Data Science



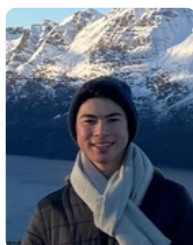
Davis Jaehn
North Carolina State
University
Mechanical Engineering



Tyler Johns
Michigan State University
Accounting



Kyle Kelsey
University of
Texas
Chemical
Engineering



Andrew Kuhn
University of
Washington
Computer
Science



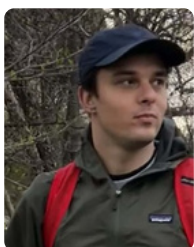
Laura Landis
Texas A & M
University
Biological &
Agricultural Engineering



Catherine Longo
Miami University
Political Science &
Italian Studies



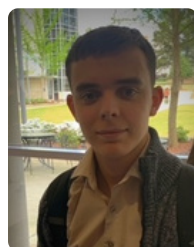
Matthew Mabry
Hendrix College
Biochemistry-
Molecular Biology



Erik McKenna
University of Virginia
Mechanical Engineering



Leilani Merkle
Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University
Aerospace Engineering



Zachary Nunez
University of Alabama
Mathematics



Zachary Patrick
College of William & Mary
Biology



Abigail Peterson
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute
Chemical Engineering



Sara-Marie Reed
Washington University -
St. Louis
Chemical Engineering



Daniel Rennie
University of
Rhode Island
Animal Science/
Pre-Veterinary



Kai Roshto
University of Hawaii
Biology & Psychology



Madison Shaw
University of
Massachusetts
Biology



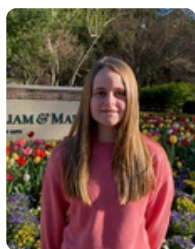
Jackson Shelton
College of
William & Mary
Finance



Kara Shepard
Colgate University
Anthropology



MMNI(SS) Michael Shires,
USN (Disch.)
Pennsylvania State
University
Software Engineering



Sarah Spicer
College of
William & Mary
Chemistry



Tetiana Tymoshevskya
University of
Alabama
Aerospace
Engineering



Wyatt Willard
California
Polytechnic
State University
Music & Physics



Sara Wines
Texas A & M
University
Biomedical
Science



Emma Zverinsky
University of
South Florida
Health Sciences

How the 2025 Tax Laws Affect Charitable Giving

1. Itemized Deductions:

- Beginning in 2026, charitable deductions for itemizers are permitted only if the total annual gifts exceed 0.5% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). For example, with an AGI of \$100,000, only donations over \$500 can be deducted.
- The value of the charitable deduction is capped: itemizers in the highest (37%) tax bracket will receive only a 35% deduction for charity, reducing the tax benefit for high earners.
- The previous limit allowing cash donations up to 60% of AGI as deductible is now permanent.

2. Universal Charitable Deduction for Non-Itemizers:

- Starting in 2026, individuals who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for joint filers) in cash gifts to eligible charities—even if they take the standard deduction.
- This replaces earlier pandemic-era provisions that allowed \$300/\$600 for singles and joint filers.
- Only direct cash gifts to 501(c)(3) public charities qualify—donor-advised funds, supporting organizations, and private foundations do not qualify.

3. Corporate Giving:

- Corporations can deduct charitable gifts only if they exceed 1% of taxable income, with a cap of 10% and a five-year carryforward for unused deductions.

4. Increased Standard Deduction:

- The standard deduction increases to \$15,750 for single filers and \$31,500 for joint filers in 2025, with additional increases for seniors through 2028.

Practical Implications of These Changes

- Front-Loading Gifts in 2025:** Tax experts recommend high-income donors accelerate gifts before 2026 to maximize deductions at the current higher rate and without caps or floors.
- Many Americans Eligible for Deductions:** The universal deduction allows over 90% of filers who don't itemize to benefit, which could promote more small-dollar donations.
- Limits May Reduce Incentives for Big Donors:** The new 0.5% floor and 35% cap make charitable giving less tax-efficient for high earners. This could lead to fewer very large donations, with some donors increasing gifts in 2025 to secure current rates.

Summary Table

Change	Details	Who is affected	Effective Date
Universal Deduction for Non-Itemizers	\$1,000 single/\$2,000 joint limit for cash donations to eligible charities.	All non-itemizing taxpayers	Jan. 1, 2026
0.5% AGI Floor for Itemizers	Only gifts exceeding 0.5% of AGI are deductible.	Itemizers	Jan. 1, 2026
35% Deduction Cap	For those in the 37% tax bracket, the deduction value is limited to 35%.	High-income itemizers	Jan. 1, 2026
Corporate Gifts Deduction Floor/Cap	Deductions only if above 1% of taxable income; cap is 10%; five-year carryforward.	Corporations	Jan. 1, 2026
Standard Deduction Increase	\$15,750 single/\$31,500 joint; more for seniors	All taxpayers	Jan. 1, 2025

Strategic Moves to Maximize Charitable Giving Before 2026

With significant tax law changes taking effect on January 1, 2026, you can take several steps in 2025 to maximize the benefits of your charitable donations.

1. Accelerate Large Donations in 2025

- Consider making any planned large charitable gifts this year. In 2025, there is no 0.5% AGI floor for itemized deductions, and high-income donors can claim up to a 37% deduction—both benefits will be reduced in 2026.
- Example: If you plan to donate a large amount over multiple years, "front-load" or "bunch" those gifts in 2025 to take advantage of current deduction rates.

2. Bunch Charitable Contributions

- Combine multiple years' worth of intended donations into one tax year (2025). This strategy is especially useful if you usually do not itemize but plan to for a larger gift, giving you a bigger tax deduction before new regulations take effect.

3. Use Donor-Advised Funds

- If you want flexibility with immediate deductions, contribute to a donor-advised fund in 2025. You get a tax deduction now and can allocate gifts to charities over time. Note that starting in 2026, some universal deductions will exclude these funds. For more information on donor-advised funds or to recommend a gift to DSF from an existing fund, please visit the DSF Gift Planning website at [Dolphin Scholarship Foundation – How You Can Give – Donor Advised Fund](#).

4. Maximize Deductible Amounts

- Take advantage of the permanent rule permitting charitable cash donations up to 60% of AGI. In 2025, you can still deduct donations up to this limit without the new floor or cap.

5. Review Appreciated Assets

- Donate appreciated stocks, mutual funds, or real estate to charity. This can help you potentially avoid capital gains tax and enable you to claim a charitable deduction at 2025 rates. For more information on how to donate appreciated assets, please visit the DSF Gift Planning website at [Dolphin Scholarship Foundation – What You Can Give – Stocks & Bonds](#).

6. Corporate Giving Adjustments

- If you own a business, think about maximizing corporate charitable deductions in 2025 before stricter floors and caps are implemented in 2026.

7. Consult with a Tax Advisor

- Tax rules can be complicated, and individual circumstances differ. Seek advice from a professional to customize strategies based on your income, charitable aims, and tax situation.

Review these Quick Tips and act in 2025 to maximize your charitable impact and deduction before less favorable rules take effect in 2026. For smarter ways to give, please visit the DSF Gift Planning website at [Dolphin Scholarship Foundation – Planned Giving Home](#).

Strategy	Why It Works in 2025
Front-load large gifts	Deductions at higher rates before 2026
Bunch several years' donations	Itemize to maximize deductions
Use donor-advised funds	Immediate deduction, flexible distribution
Max out cash donation limit	Deduct up to 60% of AGI
Donate appreciated assets	Avoid capital gains, benefit from deductions
Corporate giving	Maximize deductions before new floors/caps

DSF Endows 59th Scholarship

Diane Donald Scholarship

Diane Kerr Donald is a native of McKeesport, Pennsylvania and a proud, lifelong Navy spouse. Joining Navy life when she married her husband, Kirk Donald, a Submarine Officer at the height of the Cold War, Diane juggled the demands of family and career along with frequent relocations and separations. Ever busy with work and raising their daughter Ashley, she always found time to support Sailors and their families at every duty station. Diane was a long serving member of the Submarine Force spouse organizations. She actively supported, organized and ran charity events and projects to raise funds for the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation and other worthy organizations. In 2003, Diane served as President of Dolphin Scholarship Foundation and continued her passionate leadership of an organization dedicated to funding and awarding college scholarships for children of Submariners. In following years, she continued as an advocate for Dolphin Scholarship Foundation and the Submarine Force at large, and as a strong supporter for the civilians and Sailors of Naval Reactors. In October 2012, Diane was awarded the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award. She christened the USS INDIANA (SSN 789) in April 2017 and has since served enthusiastically as the Ship's Sponsor. As an engaged, compassionate, creative and ever supportive Navy spouse, Diane has and continues to set a worthy example of selfless service and commitment to the Navy and the Nation.



DSF Welcomes New Executive Assistant

Elaine comes from a family with three generations of service in the U.S. Navy. Both her father and brother are retired supply corps officers. She proudly received a Supply Corps scholarship to attend the Catholic University of America, where she earned a BA in Religion and Religious Education. She went on to receive a full scholarship for a master's degree from Boston College.

Having received scholarships that enabled her to follow her passions and after a 37-year career in education, Elaine is eager to support the mission of DSF to make higher education accessible for the children and spouses of submariners.



Elaine Lyons
Executive Assistant

13th Annual Groton Golf Tournament



2025 SubForce Scholarship Honorees

Gabriel Huff - Groton SOSCA Scholar
 William O'Donnell - COMSUBRON 2 & PCU USS District
 of Columbia (SSBN 826) Scholar
 Dachota Thebo - Groton SOSCA Scholar
 Madison O'Donnell - USS Colorado (SSN 788) Scholar

The 13th Annual DSF Groton Golf Tournament took place on July 18, 2025 at the Pequot Golf Club in Stonington, CT. Prior to the start, four new scholars were recognized for their achievements. The weather was perfect for a fun filled day of golf, great food, and raffle prizes! Golfers representing USS Hartford (SSN 768) & COMSUBRON 4 carried the day and took home both the 1st place trophy and 2025 Commander's Cup.

We would like to thank our volunteers, Jessica Buhle for her photography, and Sylvia Harris for her time, as well as our generous sponsors, raffle prize donors, and all of the golfers who came out to support DSF. The event raised over \$25,000 for undergraduate and vocational scholarship grants!

Closest to the Pin:

Kyle Wilkinson



Longest Drive:

Brent Brown



First Place & Commander's Cup

USS Hartford (SSN 768) and
 COMSUBRON 4

Danny Kivett
 Josh Peterson
 Kyle Wilkinson
 Dean Marvin

Second Place

NAVSUBSCOL
 Kash Murray
 Clayton Marcus
 Trent Saner
 Casimir Fresquez

Third Place

Matt Terry
 Mike Hoover
 Pat Pollard
 Ray Chelstowski



DSF Scholar Alumna Joins Board of Directors



Kelly Aeschbach
VADM, USN (Ret.)

Vice Admiral Kelly Aeschbach is an accomplished executive with proven expertise in information warfare development and application, corporate strategy, and talent management. She has just launched her private sector career after an exemplary 34+ year military career in U.S. Navy and Department of Defense information capabilities — intelligence, communications, cyber, and space. During her career she forged a reputation for operational excellence, innovative strategic thinking, and effective change-management, working in multi-service and multi-national environments.

In her last Navy assignment, she was the Navy's lead Information Warfare Officer and was responsible for overseeing training and development of over 20,000 uniformed and civilian personnel delivering information-related capabilities globally for the Navy and Department of Defense. She served as the principal senior advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations and all Fleet Commanders on information warfare recruitment, development, and retention,

participating in several Navy advisory boards. During her three-year tenure, she established information warfare as a vital fourth warfighting pillar, enhancing aviation, ship, and submarine capabilities. She executed a \$1.8 billion portfolio, prioritizing how the Navy allocated funds for critical information capabilities in a resource constrained environment. She was at the forefront of numerous Navy modernization efforts to include integration of unmanned vehicles, transition of telephony capabilities from legacy to modern protocols, rapid development of new tactics, techniques and procedures for emerging threats, and improvement of Navy's cyber readiness. During previous assignments, she led joint, multinational, and interagency organizations both at sea and ashore across all aspects of information warfare, including full-spectrum operations, program management, strategic planning, and execution. She also served as the Commander of the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Navy's service intelligence center, and as the Commander of Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic, providing global communications for the Navy.

After her retirement, VADM Aeschbach established a consulting firm and currently serves as an Advisory Board Member for SAIC. She earned a BA in international affairs from The George Washington University and an MBA from San Diego State University. She is the daughter of Navy submariner CAPT John Almon, USN (Ret.), and a Dolphin Scholarship recipient.

Spouse Groups Supporting DSF

Submarine Spouse groups funded the original Dolphin scholarship back in 1961 and continue to be a significant funding source for DSF Scholarships. Through Silver and Gold Auction fundraisers, virtual races, community events, and Dolphin Store sales, Spouse Groups from across the country donated over \$112,000 to fund twenty-eight \$4,000 scholarships. Their hard work and dedication to the scholarship program are appreciated by all facets of DSF – from the board members to the scholars receiving the scholarship funds. Thank you for your efforts!

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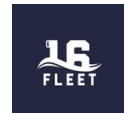


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MISSION STATEMENT

The Dolphin Scholarship Foundation (DSF) believes that enhancement of both human potential and quality of life is achievable through education. Many sons, daughters, and spouses of U.S. Navy submariners face financial obstacles while pursuing undergraduate and vocational education. DSF is committed to minimizing those obstacles by assisting them in reaching their fullest potential.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision Dolphin Scholarship Foundation to continue to be the premier military scholarship program of the United States, as evidenced by our professional management, successful fundraising efforts and continued increasing numbers and amounts of Dolphin Scholarships awarded to dependents of the Submarine Force. Through teamwork by staff and board members, we will actively seek financial support from businesses, submariners (active and retired), submarine spouse organizations, and others whose philanthropic interests are in line with the DSF mission.

CORE VALUES

Dolphin Scholarship Foundation will be guided by the principles of fiscal integrity and accountability, confidentiality of personal information, professional business practices and behavior, and impeccable customer service to our students, parents, submariners and donors.

Annual Donors

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Thank you for your support!

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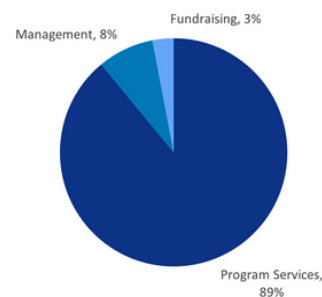
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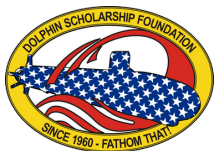
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