

CORPORAL JOSH HOFFMAN



MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A Marine through and through, Josh joined this world on March 10, 1982. He spent most of his childhood in Wayland, Michigan where he participated on the swim team and track team, and later found his true passion with wrestling.

As a child, he was always helping others. In elementary school, he helped a classmate with Spina Bifida, who was being bullied and pushed out of his wheelchair. Josh helped him back into his chair when he saw what was happening and ultimately teaching the bully a lesson. He helped elderly people in his community with shoveling snow quietly during the night, never wanting to claim ownership or receive accolades for his efforts. He was always the first to help whenever someone reached out for help. And carried that through until his very last day on earth.

He wrestled throughout middle and high school and eventually went on to a national championship. He graduated from high school in 2000 from Newport News, Virginia, and immediately returned home to Michigan to pursue his degree in Aviation.

After two years in college, he was no longer able to pay for college, so he enlisted in the Marines. After serving two tours overseas, he was called again to serve in Iraq. Just months away from the end of his military contract, he volunteered to go back to serve alongside his brothers and serve his country.

On January 6, 2007, Joshua was on patrol on the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, when he was struck by a sniper's bullet. By the grace of God and his brothers who put their own lives at risk to save him, he made it to the hospital, then the hospital in Germany, and eventually back stateside to Bethesda, Maryland, where he spent 6 weeks clinging to life. He was then released to the Veterans Hospital in Richmond, Virginia where he spent 11 more months battling the effects of his injury. Joshua was paralyzed from the chest down, unable to move any of his extremities. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, a deadly high fever, and had to be revived on more than one occasion. He was a fighter and he fought bravely through it all, never giving up hope.

On December 27, 2021, Joshua's fight ended and he went home to be with the Lord. He will always be remembered by those who knew him as someone who was giving, caring, strong, a prankster, and always had a smile on his face. He was the true definition of an American Hero in every sense of the word.

Corporal Josh Hoffman Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility

1. Applicant must be a graduating senior of either Caledonia High School, Thornapple Kellogg High School or Wayland Union High School or Homeschooled in one of the above districts.
2. Applicant must be planning to attend a 2 or 4 year university, college or vocational/ career school.
3. Applicant must be a son/daughter, step-son/daughter, grandchild, or step-grandchild of a veteran who served or is serving, in the U.S. Military.
4. The financial award will be distributed upon proof of admission to the post-secondary educational institution.
5. Funds are paid directly to the college or university for credit to that individual's tuition expense for the following semester.
6. Financial need may be considered, but is not a primary factor in selection.
7. Applicants may be required to complete an interview as part of the application process.

Criteria

1. Show good moral character and strong patriotism.
2. Strong personal traits such as caring, self-discipline, confidence and leadership.

Amount of award:

\$2,000

Deadline:

March 31

Application may be submitted on-line to: garymarzean21@gmail.com

Corporal Josh Hoffman Memorial Scholarship

Application Form

Submit online to: garymarzean21@gmail.com by March 31

Name:

Address:

Phone #:

E-mail:

High School:

Post-Secondary Institution you plan to attend:

Relationship to veteran, or currently serving member, of U.S. Military.

- Child**
- Step-Child**
- Grandchild**
- Step-Grandchild**

Personal Statement: *Tell us about yourself; your upbringing, your school career, your volunteerism, your passions, goals and dreams for your future.*