FY2026 Scholarship Committee Report

Our MCSF Scholarship is a perpetual scholarship. While the 531 Gray Ghost Squadron's initial investment doesn't come close to covering the amount of each year's award, the MCSF supplements our endowed earnings to provide a significant minimum scholarship.

The MCSF received 11 applications from students applying for our MCAA 531 Gray Ghost Scholarship (children/grandchildren of former members of the Active-Duty Grey Ghost Squadron). Of these, 4 were children and 7 were grandchildren. The online application process is tedious and difficult to navigate – especially because of our two special exceptions (grandchildren allowed and a waiver of the income eligibility threshold). Applicants have to provide a lot of documentation and are required to submit 3 different essays.

Four of the Applicants did not complete all documentation and other items - therefore they were deemed ineligible for an MCSF award.

The MCSF again chose Rylie Hunter, daughter of Sgt Donnie Hunter, for an award in the amount of $5,000. Rylie will be a junior, attending California State University - Fullerton. Her GPA was 2.38 (out of 4.0).

The MCSF also awarded Benjamin Sherwin, Captain Allan Sherwin's child, a "general" MCSF Scholarship – also in the amount of $5,000. Benjamin will be a senior attending Michigan State University. His GPA was 3.30 (out of 4.0).

Further, the MCSF awarded Hannah Harris, MSgt Isiah McHellen's stepdaughter, a "general" MCSF Scholarship in the amount of $2,500. Hannah will be a freshman attending Michigan State University. Her GPA was 3.08 (out of 4.0).

The 4 qualified applicants who were not selected by the MCSF were entered in the Squadron's "Second Chance" Scholarship process – which is administered by the Gray Ghost Squadron Board of Directors. The Board voted to approve an award of $500 to all 4 remaining applicants. These award winners were Sophia Viglione (GPA 2.97), granddaughter of Colonel John Viglione; Analiese Dusse (GPA 4.00), granddaughter of Captain Ron Dusse; Samantha Pearson (GPA 3.68), daughter of Col Roy Pearson; and Clover Fagan (GPA 3.62) grandson of Sgt Richard Fagan. Sophia will be a freshman at the University of Utah. Analiese will be a junior at Texas A&M-College Station. Samantha will be a junior at the University of San Diego. Clover will be a freshman at the University of Iowa.

At last year's Squadron Reunion in Key West, the Scholarship Auction garnered $1,630. Overall, the Scholarship Fund received $1,556 this past Fiscal year and paid out $2,000 in scholarship awards. The Scholarship Fund earned $329.26 in interest this past FY. Overall, we paid out $444 ore than we took in for Scholarships. So we need your continued generosity to provide scholarships to our children and grandchildren.

Thanks to those who donated items for the auction, and for your donations that we receive with your Membership Applications to assist these students with their education costs. These scholarship donations are Tax Deductible.

The window for the 2026-2027 Academic year MCSF Scholarship applications will be January 1st, 2027. For more info go to MCSF.org.

Roy Alan Pearson

Scholarship Committee Chairman
MCAA 531 Gray Ghost Squadron