The Lt. John J. Griffin, Jr. /USS EMMONS Memorial Scholarship

For the 2027 – 2028 Academic Year

Sponsored by:

USS EMMONS Association

"By her own aggressiveness and the courage and skill of her officers and men, the USS EMMONS achieved a record of gallantry in combat reflecting the highest credit upon herself and the United States Naval Service." - Excerpt from the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS EMMONS.

Purpose: To provide supplemental educational opportunities beyond high school to students who are descendants of those who served aboard the USS EMMONS at any time from the date of her commissioning (December 5, 1941) to her final day of glory (April 6, 1945) so as to preserve, maintain and promote the legacy of the 61 courageous men who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of their ship and their shipmates against overwhelming numerically superior enemy forces on April 6, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa. Their fighting spirit and that of the surviving EMMONS crewmembers led by Lt John J. Griffin, Jr. was in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Navy and must be preserved for the benefit of future generations of Americans.

Eligibility: Applications may be submitted by any high school senior or graduate of secondary school who will be a full-time student at an institution of accredited higher education, including 2- and 4-year college, community college, post-secondary vocational/technical school (all defined herein as undergraduate school) and graduate school, and is 1) a direct lineal descendant of one who served aboard the USS EMMONS, or 2) a direct, lineal descendant of a sibling of any childless crew member who lost his life as a result of the April 6, 1945, attack at Okinawa. Full-time status is defined as at least 12 credits (undergraduate) or 9 credits (graduate) per semester unless otherwise defined as full-time by the school's Office of the Registrar.

Amount of Awards: Two one-year, $2500 awards, one of which must go to a qualified undergraduate student. If there are no qualified undergraduate applicants, both scholarships will be awarded to the two highest qualifying applicants. In addition, as many as two $500 honorable mention awards may be granted as outlined on page 3. Disbursement of funds will be contingent upon verification of full-time enrollment as defined above at the accredited institution of higher education. In the event no applicants meet the criteria or provide the necessary documentation required herein, no scholarship will be awarded.

Availability: Applications are due May 31. All applicants will be notified by July 31 of the Legacy Committee's decision.

Procedure: Complete and submit the enclosed scholarship application and associated essay with supporting documentation noted below. **A hard copy of the two-page application must be**

submitted by mail to the address below. The essay and supporting documentation may be submitted by mail or email to ussemmons@gmail.com. Please note specific submission requirements in #5 below regarding letters of reference.

USS EMMONS Association Legacy Committee
c/o Thomas Hoffman, Chairman
36078 Huntington Street
Millville, DE 19967

Additional copies of the application and instructions may be downloaded from the USS EMMONS Association website at www.ussemmons.org/scholarship.

Supporting Documentation: Please include the following documentation with your application:

1. A certified copy of your most recent academic transcript. (High School, College, Graduate School, etc. as applicable) Home-schooled students are to provide a transcript signed and dated by a parent or guardian.

2. Evidence in the form of an enrollment verification letter or form provided by the Office of the Registrar of your full-time enrollment in, or acceptance by, the accredited educational institution to which the scholarship will be applied. If submitting only acceptance documentation with your application because you have not yet enrolled for the upcoming academic year and you are later selected as a recipient of a scholarship, you will be asked to provide evidence of your actual full-time enrollment before any funds are disbursed.

3. Copy of your birth certificate that, used in conjunction with the family tree in #4 below, verifies your relationship to an EMMONS crewmember. (not required for previous applicants).

4. A family tree diagram tracing your direct family ancestral lineage as related to the EMMONS crewmember or the sibling of a childless crewmember who lost his life at Okinawa. This will be used to verify your relationship to a crewmember. (not required for previous applicants).

5. Two letters of reference, one of which must be from a current or former teacher, either 1) mailed directly by the provider to the USPS address in this application, 2) emailed to ussemmons@gmail.com directly by the provider, or 3) forwarded via mail by the applicant in the provider's sealed envelope to the USPS address in this application (letters must be dated during 2026 or 2027).

6. A **double-spaced** essay of 500 to 750 words that addresses the essay prompt on page 3 of this application. **Please note, the written essay is to be limited to two pages** and essay attachments and exhibits may be submitted but will not be considered in essay judging**.**

7**.** To minimize concerns of plagiarism and lack of original thought, **the use of artificial intelligence technology in preparing the essay is prohibited.**

8. Documentation sent by mail must be postmarked by May 31, 2027. Electronic submission must be received by the same date.

ORIGINAL ESSAY: (500-750 words)

Please Limit Essay to Two Pages and Include Essay with Application

Essay Prompt:

On December 5, 1941, DD457, a Gleaves-class destroyer built at Bath Iron Works in Maine, was launched and christened the USS Emmons. Few, if any, of the nearly 3,000 people who witnessed the occasion could have imagined that the ship, like her namesake, Rear Admiral George Foster Emmons, would go on to earn an enduring place in United States naval history.

Consider the following questions in your essay:

1. What aspects of Rear Admiral Emmons' life, naval career, and accomplishments draw parallels to the achievements and courageous exploits of the USS Emmons and her crew during World War II?
2. What do you believe Rear Admiral Emmons would have been most proud of and impressed by regarding the ship that bore his name and the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of her crew? Explain why.
3. The passage of time can unfortunately allow even the most extraordinary acts of heroism and bravery to fade from memory. What can you do, as a member of a new generation, to help ensure that the legacy of the USS Emmons, her crew, and her namesake, Rear Admiral George Foster Emmons, is preserved and remembered by future generations?

Essay Judging Criteria

Evaluation of essays will be performed by the USS EMMONS Legacy Committee led by the treasurer of the USS EMMONS Association. It shall be the responsibility of the EMMONS Association treasurer to screen all documents submitted by applicants and verify their eligibility. The treasurer in turn shall screen all essays to the extent that the identity of each essay's author remains anonymous, and subsequently forward the essays to the other members for unbiased evaluation and ranking.

In the event a relative of a Legacy Committee member submits an application, the treasurer will remove that member of the committee from participation in the scholarship selection process and replace that member with a qualified USS EMMONS Association member. Also, committee members are prohibited from providing guidance or any other assistance with regard to the essay, other than that already contained herein. The Legacy Committee will judge essays using the rubric on the following page, while considering:

- Originality. Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest, and
- Content. Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner; fully develop your theme and use transitions to move from one idea to another.

In addition to the two $2500 awards, a $500 honorable mention award may be granted if at least 5 qualifying applications are received. A second $500 honorable mention award may be granted if at least 7 qualifying applications are received.

SCORING RUBRIC

A rubric used by the judges in evaluating the essays is provided below. Each criterion is judged based on a point value of 4 (best) to 0 (worst), except for Mechanics, which has a point value of 2 (best) to 0 (worst). The essay prompt is provided on page 3.

CRITERION I: EXPLAIN WHAT ASPECTS OF REAR ADMIRAL EMMONS' LIFE, NAVAL CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DRAW PARALLELS TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXPLOITS OF THE USS EMMONS CREW.
4: Excellent discussion of those parallels.
3: Very good discussion of those parallels.
2: Adequate discussion of those parallels.
1: Poor discussion of those parallels.
0: Criterion not addressed
CRITERION II: EXPLAIN WHAT YOU BELIEVE REAR ADMIRAL EMMONS WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST PROUD OF AND IMPRESSED BY REGARDING THE USS EMMONS AND THE COURAGE, DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES OF HER CREW AND EXPLAIN WHY.
4: Excellent description of what you believe, and why, RADM Emmons would have been most proud of and impressed by regarding the USS Emmons and the courage, dedication and sacrifices of her crew.
3: Very good description of what you believe, and why, RADM Emmons would have been most proud of and impressed by regarding the USS Emmons and the courage, dedication and sacrifices of her crew.
2: Adequate description of what you believe, and why, RADM Emmons would have been most proud of and impressed by regarding the USS Emmons and the courage, dedication and sacrifices of her crew.
1: Poor description of what you believe, and why, RADM Emmons would have been most proud of and impressed by regarding the USS Emmons and the courage, dedication and sacrifices of her crew.
0: Criterion not addressed.
CRITERION III: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ENSURE THE LEGACY OF THE USS EMMONS, HER CREW, AND HER NAMESAKE, RADM GEORGE FOSTER EMMONS, IS PRESERVED AND REMEMBERED BY FUTURE GENERATIONS?
4: Excellent explanation of what you can do to help ensure the legacy of the USS Emmons, her crew, and her namesake, RADM G.F. Emmons, is preserved and remembered by future generations.
3: Very good explanation of what you can do to help ensure the legacy of the USS Emmons, her crew, and her namesake, RADM G.F. Emmons, is preserved and remembered by future generations.
2: Adequate explanation of what you can do to help ensure the legacy of the USS Emmons, her crew, and her namesake, RADM G.F. Emmons, is preserved and remembered by future generations.
1: Poor explanation of what you can do to help ensure the legacy of the USS Emmons, her crew, and her namesake, RADM G.F. Emmons, is preserved and remembered by future generations.
0: Criterion not addressed.
CRITERION IV: MECHANICS
2: Sentences are clearly worded and vary effectively in length and complexity; minor grammatical, spelling/usage, and typographical errors.
1: Sentences are sometimes awkwardly worded and are sometimes choppy or too long/short; and/or several grammatical, spelling/usage, and typographical errors.
0: Sentences are often awkwardly worded; difficult to understand; many grammatical, spelling/usage, and/or typographical errors.

USS EMMONS Association
36078 Huntington St., Millville, DE 19967

Lt John J. Griffin, Jr./USS EMMONS Memorial Scholarship Application

2027 – 2028 Academic Year

NOTE: THIS FORM MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Date: _____ **For School Year Beginning: _____**

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Current Address:

_____

Date of Birth: _____ **Gender: M _____ F _____**

Telephone: _____ **E-Mail: _____**

Name of EMMONS crewmember to whom you are related:

_____

Your relationship to the EMMONS crewmember (check one):

☐ **Direct descendant of the EMMONS crewmember _____**
Relationship (child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc.)

☐ **Direct descendant of a sibling of a childless EMMONS crewmember who lost his life at the April 6, 1945, Battle of Okinawa _____ _____**
Name of crewmember's sibling, including maiden name Your relationship to sibling

Parent's name and relationship to crewmember\sibling:

_____ _____
Parent's name, including maiden name, if applicable **Parent's relationship (child, grandchild, etc.)**

Name of Educational Institution: _____

Contact Information of Educational Institution's Office of Financial Aid to which the scholarship award would be sent:

Name and Address: _____

_____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Major/Minor Course of Study: _____

Career Goal(s): _____

Interests/Hobbies: _____

_____

FAMILY DATA

	Father and/or Legal Guardian	**Mother**
Name:	_____	_____
Address:	_____	_____
Occupation:	_____	_____
Phone Number:	_____	_____
Email Address:	_____	_____

Disclaimer: I certify that artificial intelligence technology was not used to generate the submitted essay.

By virtue of my free and voluntary submission of this application and all accompanying documentation, I hereby authorize the USS EMMONS Association unrestricted use of the contents of this application and any photo opportunities that may result for promotion of the Lt. John J. Griffin, Jr./USS EMMONS Memorial Scholarship.

I also understand that disbursement of funds is contingent upon verification of full-time enrollment in an accredited institution of higher education during the academic year for which the scholarship is awarded.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date _____

Also, for those applying as a descendant of a sibling only: I attest, to the best of my knowledge, that the EMMONS crewmember to whom I am related who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country at Okinawa in April 1945, had no children. I agree that evidence to the contrary will automatically disqualify me and require me to return any scholarship awarded.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date _____

Application Checklist

(See page 2 for required documentation)

Before submitting your application, did you:

- ☐ …complete all sections of the two-page application and sign/date it? **NOTE: The two-page application form must be sent by mail and may not be submitted by electronic means, such as email.**
- ☐ …submit or request to have sent a certified copy of your academic transcript or, for home-schooled students, a transcript signed and dated by a parent or guardian?
- ☐ …provide evidence of acceptance by or current full-time enrollment in the accredited educational institution to which the scholarship will be applied? If you are currently enrolled, include verification from the Office of the Registrar verifying your full-time enrollment. If you are accepted, but not yet enrolled, include evidence of your acceptance by the institution (if you are later selected as the recipient of the scholarship, evidence of your actual full-time enrollment will be requested before any funds are disbursed).
- ☐ …provide a copy of your birth certificate or other legal documentation that will establish your identity to help verify your relationship to an EMMONS crewmember? (not required of previous applicants)
- ☐ …provide a simple family tree diagram tracing your direct family ancestral lineage to the EMMONS crewmember or to the sibling of a childless EMMONS crewmember who lost his life at Okinawa? (not required of previous applicants)
- ☐ …provide the essay **limited to two pages**, double-spaced and 500 to 750 words addressing the essay prompt contained in the application?
- ☐ …avoid the use of artificial intelligence technology to generate the essay?
- ☐ …provide two letters of reference, submitted in accordance with the requirements outlined in #5 on page 2 (must be dated during 2026 or 2027)?
- ☐ …submit your two-page application **postmarked** no later than May 31, 2027, to the address below, and the supporting documentation postmarked or sent electronically by the same date to the addresses below?

USS EMMONS Association Legacy Committee
c/o Thomas Hoffman, Chairman
36078 Huntington Street
Millville, DE 19967

Email any questions to the USS EMMONS Association Legacy Committee at:

ussemmons@gmail.com