

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

## **For the 2023 – 2024 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 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 60 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. 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, postmarked no later than May 31, 2023, to the following address:

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 obtained by either writing to the address above, emailing your request to [ussemmons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemmons@gmail.com), or downloading it from the USS Emmons Association website at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).

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

1. A certified copy of your 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 at that time 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 sealed letters of reference, one of which must be from a current or former teacher, mailed either directly to the address in this application or forwarded as an accompanying enclosure of supporting documentation (letters must be dated during 2022 or 2023).
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. All documentation must be postmarked by May 31, 2023.

## **ORIGINAL ESSAY: (500-750 words)**

**Please Limit Essay to Two Pages and Include Essay with Application**

### **Essay Prompt:**

**Next year, 2024, marks the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion. On June 6, 1984, during the 40th Anniversary of the Invasion attended by President Ronald Reagan and other world-wide Heads of State and dignitaries, Queen Elizabeth II made a striking speech in which she said, "There are only a few occasions in history when the course of human destiny had depended on the events of a single day. June the sixth, 1944, was one of those critical moments."**

**General Omar Bradley, Field Commander of American troops at Normandy's Omaha and Utah Beach, wrote in his memoirs: "Omaha Beach was a nightmare. Even now it brings pain to recall what happened there on June 6, 1944. I have returned many times to honor the valiant men who died on that beach. They should never be forgotten. Nor should those who lived to carry the day by the slimmest of margins."**

- Describe the significance of the role the USS EMMONS and other American destroyers played in turning the tide of battle at a critical point during the Normandy landings at Omaha Beach as described in "The Emmons Saga" and other historical reference documents.
- Relate how the outcome of this historic battle changed the course of history for future generations throughout the world and its impact on you personally as an EMMONS family member.
- Explain why you feel it is important that the significance of June 6, 1944, and the sacrifice of approximately 3,000 American servicemembers who perished that day on Omaha Beach be preserved for future generations of Americans so as not to allow it to fade from memory with the passage of time.

### 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.

**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: DESCRIBE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ROLE THE USS EMMONS AND OTHER AMERICAN DESTROYERS PLAYED IN TURNING THE TIDE OF BATTLE AT A CRITICAL POINT.**

- 4: Excellent discussion of the significance of the role the EMMONS and other American destroyers played in turning the tide
- 3: Very good discussion of the significance of the role the EMMONS and other American destroyers played in turning the tide
- 2: Adequate discussion of the significance of the role the EMMONS and other American destroyers played in turning the tide
- 1: Poor discussion of the significance of the role the EMMONS and other American destroyers played in turning the tide
- 0: Criterion not addressed

**CRITERION II: RELATE HOW THE OUTCOME CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND ITS IMPACT ON YOU PERSONALLY AS AN EMMONS FAMILY MEMBER.**

- 4: Excellent explanation relating how the outcome changed the course of history for future generations throughout the world and its impact on you personally as an EMMONS family member
- 3: Very good explanation relating how the outcome changed the course of history for future generations throughout the world and its impact on you personally as an EMMONS family member
- 2: Adequate explanation relating how the outcome changed the course of history for future generations throughout the world and its impact on you personally as an EMMONS family member
- 1: Poor explanation relating how the outcome changed the course of history for future generations throughout the world and its impact on you personally as an EMMONS family member
- 0: Criterion not addressed

**CRITERION III: EXPLAIN WHY YOU FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNE 6, 1944, AND THE SACRIFICE OF APPROXIMATELY 3,000 AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBERS, BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS SO AS NOT TO ALLOW IT TO FADE FROM MEMORY.**

- 4: Excellent explanation of why it is important that the significance of June 6, 1944, and the sacrifice of 3,000 American servicemembers be preserved for future generations
- 3: Very good explanation of why it is important that the significance of June 6, 1944, and the sacrifice of 3,000 American servicemembers be preserved for future generations
- 2: Adequate explanation of why it is important that the significance of June 6, 1944, and the sacrifice of 3,000 American servicemembers be preserved for future generations
- 1: Poor explanation of why it is important that the significance of June 6, 1944, and the sacrifice of 3,000 American servicemembers be preserved for 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 /USS EMMONS  
Memorial Scholarship Application Form  
2023 – 2024 Academic Year**

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:** 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?
- ...include 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?
- ...include 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).
- ...include 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)
- ...include 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)
- ...include the essay limited to two pages, double-spaced and 500 to 750 words addressing the essay prompt contained in the application?
- ...provide two sealed letters of reference, which may be mailed directly to the address below by the individual providing the reference, or included with this application (must be dated during 2022 or 2023)?
- ...mail your application and supporting documentation postmarked no later than May 31, 2023 to the address 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:

**[ussemons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemons@gmail.com)**