

## **The Lt. John J. Griffin, Jr. /USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship For the 2022 – 2023 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 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 scholarship awards. A one-year, \$2500 award for an undergraduate student and a one-year, \$2500 award for a graduate student. If either the undergraduate scholarship or the graduate scholarship has no qualifying 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, 2021, 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 2021 or 2022).
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, 2022.

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

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

### **Essay Prompt:**

Consider the following statements:

In the late 1700's Edmund Burke, statesman, economist, author, orator, and philosopher who served in the British House of Commons stated, "Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it." Likewise in the early 1900s renowned American philosopher George Santayana stated in his work, "The life of Reason," "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it". President John F. Kennedy wrote, "History is the means by which a nation establishes its sense of identity and purpose. The future arises out of the past and a country's history is a statement of the values and hopes which having forged what has gone before, will now forecast what is to come."

A recent survey conducted by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation found that only one in three Americans is capable of passing the U.S. citizenship exam consisting of a series of multiple-choice questions based on American history. They found this to be alarming in that knowledge of a nation's history by its citizens is essential to preserving all democratic societies.

Arthur Levine, president of the foundation, went on to say, "Americans need to understand the past in order to make sense of a chaotic present and an inchoate future. History is both an anchor in a time when change assails us and a laboratory for studying the changes that are occurring. It offers the promise of providing a common bond among Americans in an era in which our divisions are profound and our differences threaten to overshadow our commonalities."

In view of the observations cited above, explain why it is imperative that the history and legacy of the USS Emmons (DD457/DMS22) be preserved for future generations of Americans.

Explain how the history of the Emmons and the comradery, solidarity and unity of purpose of its crew members in times of crisis can serve as a guiding light to our country in the present day.

What can you as an Emmons family member do to ensure that the legacy and sacrifice of these valiant men does not 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: EXPLAIN WHY IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF THE EMMONS BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS.**

4: Excellent discussion of why it is imperative that the history and legacy of the Emmons be preserved for future generations of Americans

3: Very good discussion of why it is imperative that the history and legacy of the Emmons be preserved for future generations of Americans

2: Adequate discussion of why it is imperative that the history and legacy of the Emmons be preserved for future generations of Americans

1: Poor discussion of why it is imperative that the history and legacy of the Emmons be preserved for future generations of Americans

0: Criterion not addressed

**CRITERION II: EXPLAIN HOW THE HISTORY OF THE EMMONS AND THE COMRADERY, SOLIDARITY AND UNITY OF PURPOSE OF ITS CREW MEMBERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS CAN SERVE AS A GUIDING LIGHT TO OUR COUNTRY IN THE PRESENT DAY.**

4: Excellent explanation of how the history of the Emmons and the comradery, solidarity and unity of purpose of its crew members in times of crisis can serve as a guiding light to our country in the present day

3: Very good explanation of how the history of the Emmons and the comradery, solidarity and unity of purpose of its crew members in times of crisis can serve as a guiding light to our country in the present day

2: Adequate explanation of how the history of the Emmons and the comradery, solidarity and unity of purpose of its crew members in times of crisis can serve as a guiding light to our country in the present day

1: Poor explanation of how the history of the Emmons and the comradery, solidarity and unity of purpose of its crew members in times of crisis can serve as a guiding light to our country in the present day

0: Criterion not addressed

**CRITERION III: WHAT CAN YOU AS AN EMMONS FAMILY MEMBER DO TO ENSURE THAT THE LEGACY AND SACRIFICE OF THESE VALIANT MEN DOES NOT FADE FROM MEMORY WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME?**

4: Excellent explanation of what the applicant can do to ensure that the legacy and sacrifice of these valiant men does not fade from memory with the passage of time

3: Very good explanation of what the applicant can do to ensure that the legacy and sacrifice of these valiant men does not fade from memory with the passage of time

2: Adequate explanation of what the applicant can do to ensure that the legacy and sacrifice of these valiant men does not fade from memory with the passage of time

1: Poor explanation of what the applicant can do to ensure that the legacy and sacrifice of these valiant men does not fade from memory with the passage of time

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 2022 – 2023 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/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 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 2021 or 2022)?
- ...mail your application and supporting documentation postmarked no later than May 31, 2022 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**