



# Wings Over America Scholar

Emily Gardiner

Leonardtown, MD

Sponsor: LCDR Joseph Gardiner, III

College: Duquesne University

2023-2024: Junior

Major: Occupational Therapy

## Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Student Occupational Therapy Association
- Hugs for Healing Coordinator
- Duquesne University Equestrian Team/Competitive Horseback Riding: Treasurer (Freshman)
- Pi Kappa Epsilon
- Personalized Therapy, LLC: Patient Engagement Coordinator
- Arabesque Farm: Equine Caretaker



I would like to begin by saying thank you to the Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation and its generous donors for once again supporting my fellow recipients and I. For the past two years, their support allowed me to focus my efforts on my studies as an occupational therapy student, without the additional stress of a financial burden. As I enter my third year as an occupational therapy student, I am even more excited to be one year closer to joining the workforce and being able to give back to the military community. As an OT, I will help people learn or re-learn everyday activities and see the progression from a low point in life after an injury or surgery to the success of returning to a normal life. While this is rewarding on its own, it would be even more rewarding to assist someone who made sacrifices for our country. Returning a trained and experienced member of our armed forces to their job would preserve the investments made in that individual. It would be my way of giving back to someone who has done so much good for our nation. This scholarship will once again allow me to continue studying the field that I love and prepare me to serve my future community by relieving a portion of the financial burden brought with it. I have sincerely found a field that I love and cannot wait to see where my education will lead me.