



VAW/VRC Merit: In Memoriam of Captain Jason Chuderewicz Scholar

Allyson Kelso

Burke, VA

Sponsor: CDR Mark T Kelso

College: Florida State University

2023-2024: Freshman

Major: Music Therapy

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Girl Scouts: Gold Award 11th grade
- Chorus: Co-President (11th); VP of Recruitment (12th)
- Theatre: Lead (12th), Supporting (10th, 11th), ensemble (9th-12th)
- Founder/Coordinator of the GUIDE Program, National Federation of the Blind of Virginia (NFBV)
- Intern: Eyes Like Mine, Inc.



Thank you for awarding me these scholarships. I am very thankful to have received a WOASF scholarship and a VAW/VRC Merit scholarship. As someone who has always been committed to excelling in academics and extracurricular activities, I am delighted that my achievements have been recognized through scholarships. Since I will be attending college out-of-state, having these scholarships cover my tuition costs helps me financially as I'll be incurring higher costs than most for travelling home on breaks. This scholarship means a lot to me because it significantly helps me to further my education to help me achieve my goal of becoming a Music Therapist. When I become a Music Therapist, I want to work with teens and young adults who are experiencing mental health challenges. As a military child who has attended many schools, I often turned to music to help me handle the mental strain associated with these school transitions. Joining a choir at church or taking a Chorus class at school were paramount to making new friends through our shared interests. I am proud of my father's service in the U.S. Navy and I feel I have represented his service honorably as a military child by planting roots and being successful in new places throughout my childhood. I am thankful to the donors who make these scholarships sustainable for dependents like me and I will strive to make them proud as I begin my college studies at Florida State University.