



W I N N E R

EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

MAY 27, 2021

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Alayah Taha Memorial Scholarship	Edison Light Cruisers Memorial Scholarship	Lillian Pedersen Future Teachers of America Award
Alfredo P. Donato Memorial Scholarship	Edison Principals & Supervisors Association Scholarship	Lucille Janusz Memorial Scholarship
Amy Zandomenego Memorial Scholarship	Edison Township School Nurses Association Scholarship	JFK Auxiliary Lotta Grasty Memorial Scholarship
Anthony Montalto Memorial Scholarship	Edison P.B.A Scholarship	Marisa Tufaro Memorial Edison High School Scholarship
Ausome Balloon Scholarship	Edison Public Schools Custodians and Maintenance Association Trades Scholarship	Mayor's Award
Ben Franklin Elementary PTA Scholarship	ETEA Scholarship	Metuchen Edison Women's Club Scholarship
Certified Kitchens, Inc. Scholarship	ETEA Future Teacher Award	NAACP of Metuchen/Edison Scholarship
Chartwells Scholarship	ETEA Harriet Milleman Future Nurse Award	Nick Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Christian Anthony Gioffre Memorial Scholarship	Fabricland Textile and Design Award	Señor Pan's AP Spanish Excellence Award
Coach Ken Pagach Memorial Scholarship	Federal Business Centers Award	Patrolman Frank Papaanni Memorial Scholarship
Denise & Art Rostel Edison High Cross Country Scholarship	Fords Jewelers Scholarship	Phillip J. Capellupo Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Vincent J. Capraro Scholarship	Gene Maeroff Memorial AVID Scholarship	Ronald G. Rios Charity Trust Fund Scholarship
Eagle 2021 Award	HAB Bank Scholarship	Sam Joshi Scholarship
Edison Elks Helen Holman Memorial Scholarship	Herbert Hoover Middle School AVID Alumni Scholarship	Stephen G. & Kathryn G. Achaves Memorial Scholarship
Edison Elks #2487 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship	Independent Club of Colonia Outstanding Student Award	Thomas Edison Center Scholarship
Edison Fire Fighters Local #1197 Scholarship	James & Louise Cassidy Memorial Scholarship	Thomas Jefferson Jaguar Alumni Scholarship
Edison Fire Officers Association Local #2883 Scholarship	Joe Koslick Memorial Scholarship	Thomas Jefferson Middle School AVID Alumni Scholarship
Edison High School AVID Site Team Scholarship	John Marshall Elementary School Alumni Scholarship	Washington Elementary School Alumni Fund Scholarship
Edison High School Class of 1970 Scholarship	Jonathon Baksh Lindeneau Elementary School Alumni Scholarship	Wegmans Scholarship Competition Award
Edison High School PTSO Scholarship	Justin King Memorial Scholarship	Winston Hughes Scholarship - Band
Edison High School Staff Scholarship	Kaitlyn Papkin Memorial Scholarship	Winston Hughes Scholarship - Choir

AWARDS

Department & Co-Curricular

Band

*John Phillip Sousa and Semper Fi Award
(Medal Winner)*

Instrumental Certificate

Color Guard Certificate

Child Study Team

Rising Eagle Award & Medal Winners

Choir

4 Year Choir Award

3 Year Choir Award

2 Year Choir Award

1 Year Choir Award

*4 Year Choir Award w/ 2 Years on Student
Board (Medal Winner)*

*4 Year Choir Award w/ 1 Year on Student
Board*

Dance Ensemble

Dance Arts Award

DECA

Business Leadership Award

AT&T Mentorship Scholarship

The Eagle's Eye

The Eagle's Eye Leadership Award

The Eagle's Eye Writer's Award

English

*Overall Excellence in English Award (Medal
Winner)*

*Soaring Eagle English Award (Medal
Winner)*

Family & Consumer Science

*Family and Consumer Science Department
Award (Medal Winner)*

Culinary Award

*Child Growth & Development Award
Fashion Award*

Film Club

Film Club Award

French Club & French Honor Society

Arc de Triomphe Service Award

General Student Council

Student Council Awards

Mathematics

Top Math Student Award

Peacock Society

Peacock Leadership Award

Physical Education/Health

PE/Health Award & Medal Winners

School Counseling

School Counseling Award

Science

*Science Department Award & Medal
Winners*

Theatre

The Stagecraft Award

Improvisational Theatre Award

The Musical Theatre Award

The Theatre Arts Award

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES & Honorable Mentions

Alayah Taha Memorial Scholarship

The EHS Choral department suffered an unimaginable loss this year when Alayah Taha suddenly passed away. Alayah was a soulful and talented singer, whose voice filled the entire room. You would never imagine such a poised and professional voice would come from such a reserved individual. It was impressive. And it always had an impact. Alayah did not allow her talent to go to her head. She was the student in the choir who always encouraged other kids - who welcomed new students to the group with open arms - who cheered them on during auditions and solo performances. She had an encouraging smile and a hug for anyone who needed it. We would like to award this scholarship to someone who is talented and humble and fosters the team and community effort that is so important to a choir.



Alfredo P. Donato Memorial Scholarship (1922 - 2015)

Mr. Donato was a letter carrier in Edison. He delivered mail on a route through Edison and along Woodbridge Avenue from the Nixon Post Office for 25 years. He was a WWII Veteran serving overseas from 1943 until 1945. Extremely proud of his service as a Marine in the Second World War, it provided Alfredo with a motto with which he lived his life: Semper Fi. Two of his three children, Linda ('70) and Saverio Donato ('72) graduated from Edison High School.



Amy Zandomenego Memorial Scholarship

Amy Zandomenego attended EHS from 1981-1984 and graduated from Rider University in 1989. During her time at EHS, she was a varsity cheerleader and a member of the student council. Her laughter was absolutely infectious and her smile could light up a room. Amy was fighting a battle with breast cancer, a battle she would later lose. Through it all, that smile remained. She showed incredible dignity, strength and courage. She was a member of Macheistic Dragons, a local Dragonboat team made up of cancer survivors. Her love of the sport soon spread to her friends and they formed a team of their own and named it after her-Amy's Army. After her passing in 2012, this group founded a scholarship in her honor.



Anthony Montalto Memorial Scholarship

Anthony Montalto graduated from Edison High in 2017. While he wasn't always the best student, he was often the best friend. He never let any one setback define him. Ant always found ways to get done what needed to get done and his smile was infectious. As he grew through his time at the Nest, he saw that he was at his best when he helped other people. He entered the Marine Corp and survived more weeks at Parris Island than any other Eagle but would not be stopped. Anthony came back to the nest shining with pride and left to serve our Country.

Sadly, Anthony was called to heaven in December 2019, a bright light dimmed too soon. But as he lives in our memory, the Montalto family and the Edison High Family, have put together a scholarship in his name. The recipient of the Anthony Montalto Scholarship is someone who has both the fighting spirit of the Marine Corps and a heart of gold. The recipient is proud of our School, Town, and Country and works to better the lives of those around him and epitomizes Anthony's spirit.

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES & Honorable Mentions

Christian Anthony Gioffre Memorial Scholarship

In February of 2008, our family was introduced to a new normal with the passing of our son Christian Anthony. The grief that we felt was only surpassed by the compassion shown by the Edison High School community toward my family. Unrivalled in their support and generosity, the Edison High School community helped us cope during a very difficult time. Since then, it has been the goal of our family to try to show our gratitude to the Edison High School community by offering a scholarship in memory of our son Christian. The Christian Anthony Gioffre Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to an individual that we believe will continue the cycle of giving by going into a healthcare profession, or teaching. It is our hope that the recipient of the CAG Scholarship will see their dream through to its fruition as the world is always looking for enthusiastic educators and healthcare professionals.



Coach Ken Pagach Memorial Scholarship ***Edison Wrestling Head Coach 1964-1994***

Ken Pagach was the Edison High School wrestling coach for 30 consecutive seasons spanning from 1964-1994. Coaching more than 1,500 wrestlers, including state champions Mario Ianni (1970) and Joe Duhigg (1989), he retired from education in 1998. He led Edison to 230 dual meet victories, nine district titles, 11 second-place district tournament finishes, three Middlesex County championships (runner-up three times), with three Conference championships and two time Warren Hills Tournament champions. His teams made seven state sectional final appearances. Pagach's wrestlers won 145 overall individual tournament titles. A six-time Coach of the Year, Pagach's reach and impact transcended Middlesex County. A twenty nine year member of the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Association, Ken served as President, Vice President, Region 5 President and State Ranking Chairman, creating the statewide ranking system that the NJSIAA utilizes to this day to determine sectional playoff qualifiers. He was also a twenty year member of the New Jersey Wrestling Officials Association. Ken has been inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma, the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame, the New Jersey Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame and the Edison High School Athletic Hall of Fame.



Denise and Art Rostel Edison High Cross Country Scholarship

Denise Rostel was a teacher for 25 and a half years with her last 10 years in Woodbridge Township. She taught Home Economics including foods, clothing, and child care. She student taught at Herbert Hoover in 1971 with Kathy Hendricks as the cooperating teacher, when she met her husband Art. They were married on June 29, 1974. Denise passed away from cancer (sarcoma) just 8 weeks before their 40th Anniversary on May 1, 2014. Denise supported Art and his passion for cross country. She attended as many meets as she could, and she was an integral part of the running of the team, from chaperoning overnight trips to running the banquets. Art feels that he could never have accomplished what he did without his wife's support.

Art Rostel taught for 36 years as a Social Studies teacher in Edison with 17 years at Herbert Hoover Jr. H.S. (1967-84) and 19 years at EHS (1984-2003). Art coached Cross Country for all 36 years and was Head Coach at EHS for both the boys and the girls teams for the last 25 years (1978-2003). Art Rostel was inducted into the New Jersey State Coaches Hall of Fame in 2002. The boys team won a State Sectional Championship in 1979 and the 1971 freshman team at Herbert Hoover Jr. H.S. was selected as the #1 freshman team in the nation by the United States Track & Field Federation and by Track and Field News. In his last year at EHS in 2003 he was selected as Teacher of the Year and for the Governor's Recognition Program. After retiring from Edison he became an assistant coach at Union High School where he got to coach his son, Chris, who was an outstanding cross country runner and a 3200 meter runner in track.

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES & Honorable Mentions

Edison Elks-Helen Holman Memorial Scholarship

Helen Holman founded our charity committee 11 years ago. Since that time it has donated to about 145 organizations, locally and nationally for about \$1,225,000.00. We are very involved in our veterans, handicapped children and community affairs. We honor her with her hindsight to be able to accomplish all that we do.



Edison Light Cruisers Memorial Scholarship

The Edison Light Cruisers Car Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 by a group of men, three of whom are still members. The purpose of our organization is to encourage the use, preservation and restoration of antique and custom vehicles. The car club meets every Thursday from April through October (weather permitting) with a cruise night in the Home Depot, Edison, NJ parking lot. We provide music and trophies, car enthusiasts come and display their antique and custom vehicles for the enjoyment of everyone.



Gene Maeroff Memorial AVID Scholarship

This scholarship has been established in memory of Mr. Gene Maeroff, who served as a member and president of the Board of Education for the Edison Public Schools. He also served four years on AVID Center's National Board of Directors and witnessed first-hand the success of AVID students throughout the United States. Mr. Maeroff spent a lifetime committed to education in America. After spending 16 years at the New York Times as a national education correspondent, he joined Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1996 as founding director of the Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media. He wrote more than 15 books on educational issues in addition to numerous articles in magazines and newspapers. He was also senior fellow for 10 years at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, on the campus of Princeton University, before joining Columbia.



Jonathan Baksh Lindeneau Alumni Scholarship

Jonathan Marcel Rocha Baksh was born on 11/12/95. He was a selfless human being whom at 19 years old lived the life of a person way beyond his years. Jon was happiness. He had no boundaries with compassion and kindness, and he made sure every person around him was happy. He would go out of his way to lend a hand or to cheer up another. Jon attended Lindeneau Elementary School. He took part in most of the school's social events with his three siblings. He also attended Thomas Jefferson Middle School and graduated in 2013 from Edison High School. Jon was looking forward to starting MCC in the fall of 2015. He took his job very seriously; he was punctual, dependable and would extend himself wherever help was needed. He was a role model to his younger siblings and was a Godfather to a 20 month old. He volunteered his time to various community events here and in Trinidad. Jon always wanted to help the world. He wanted to leave his name on a wall. Jon was a donor; his donation to life will help over two hundred people live better lives. His friend Rachael expressed herself regarding Jon in the following way, "To describe his soul as beautiful is an extreme understatement. It was a privilege to not only know him but to be his friend for a number of years. His existence itself was a source of joy and positivity. Writer James O'Barr said, 'If the people we love are stolen from us, the way to have them live on is to never stop loving them.' And, therefore, we will never stop loving Jon. We will never forget him. Rather, we will allow his memory to drive us to love and take care of others the way that he did for us."

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES & Honorable Mentions

Joseph Koslick Memorial Scholarship

Joe Koz was an English teacher at Edison High School from 1964-2000. His 36 years of dedicated service to the students of Edison High School was not limited to academics in the classroom but also on the athletic field of play. Joe Koslick coached the Edison HS Boys Basketball Team for a span of 16 years, 10 years in the capacity as Assistant and 6 years as the Head Varsity Coach. In addition, he served as the Boys Varsity Cross Country Coach for a period of 9 years. Although his 36 years of service to Edison HS is worthy of recognition in and of itself, this award is offered to acknowledge an educator that left an indelible impression on countless students at EHS. Joe Koz was always willing to help his students by writing letters of recommendation to colleges or coaching them to excel on a job interview after graduation. Joe Koz was a tremendous role model both in and outside of the classroom. This memorial scholarship recognizes the dedication of a terrific educator and friend to those who were fortunate to have known him. The recipient of the Joe Koslick Memorial Scholarship will be an Edison High School Senior that is pursuing English, teaching, or a related field of study in college. This award is simply a means to assist an EHS student to achieve their goals, just as Joe Koslick did throughout his distinguished career.



Justin King Memorial Scholarship

Justin's family moved to Edison from Long Island in 1985. Their family grew to 5 children. Justin was the oldest. His family fit into the neighborhood quickly and soon Justin was one of the neighborhood kids. He had a joy for life and always tried to make everyone welcome. He was especially wonderful with children; always trying to entertain them. Justin graduated from Edison High School in 1991 and went on to attend college. He was a hard worker and always looked to help co-workers, family and friends. Justin passed in 2017 and left a lasting impression on all he touched. This award is in honor of Justin.



Lucille Janusz Memorial Scholarship

Born in Newark, NJ in 1944, Lucille Janusz moved to Edison in January 1972. Lucille joined the Washington Elementary School PTA as second Vice President, the fundraising chairman and safety chairman. She was also the Edison High School PTSO President from 1986 to 1988. Her two daughters and grandson attended EHS. Since 1985, Lucille proudly prepared poster boards for monthly display on the bulletin boards at the high school (34 years). She collected newspaper articles, sports scores, pictures, local events and holiday recognition, and displayed them on picturesque boards for all to enjoy. These were examples of her passion for the school, teachers, students and alumni. A scholarship was created in loving memory of Lucille after her passing in December 2019. It is intended for a student who makes a difference in the school, one who positively affects the lives of others.



Marisa Tufaro Memorial Scholarship

The Marisa Tufaro Memorial Edison High School Scholarship is awarded to a well-rounded and exceptional student who shares Marisa's interests, may have overcome adversity, who is college-bound or has applied to be accepted to a vocational or trade school. Marisa, who would have been a sophomore this year at Edison High School, was born with a complex cardiac defect which required six open-heart surgeries. She developed two life-threatening conditions that necessitated a heart transplant. A complication from the transplant led to a rare form of blood cancer to which Marisa succumbed in January 2017. Despite being hospitalized for more than two years and maintaining hundreds of doctor's appointments, Marisa lived a vibrant life that inspired. She was an honor roll student at James Monroe Elementary School and Herbert Hoover Middle School, a credit to outstanding educators whose role in Marisa's complete development can never be overstated. Marisa served as student council vice president at James Monroe, where she also participated in five annual spring musicals, wrote for the school newspaper, sang in the school chorus, played percussion in the school orchestra and was a member of various clubs. Marisa is the daughter of longtime Edison Township Public Schools educator Cyndi Tufaro and Home News Tribune sports writer Greg Tufaro. In honor of their daughter, Cyndi and Greg founded the Marisa Tufaro Foundation, whose mission is to help children in need throughout the greater Middlesex County area.

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES & Honorable Mentions

Nicholas Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Early in the 2013 spring semester at Lynchburg College, we lost a caring friend, loyal teammate, dedicated classmate, kind neighbor, loving son and brother-Nicholas Johnson. Born and raised in Edison, he attended Washington Elementary School, Thomas Jefferson Middle School and graduated from Edison High School in 2011. Nick was a guy who enjoyed living every single day of this life. It wasn't about how he compared to others, but being the best version of himself. Always giving his best effort and doing things with heart, passion and perseverance. The Nick Johnson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an EHS student who demonstrates these same characteristics. It's not about being the best. It's about someone who flies under the radar; an individual who continues to work hard at both school and sport but not necessarily receiving the recognition. To honor Nick's life and memory, his family presents this scholarship annually with hope the recipient can connect with Nick in a special way and perpetuate his spirit in all that they do.



Patrolman Frank Papaanni Memorial Scholarship

Patrolman Frank Papaanni was a noble officer who faithfully protected and served the residents, businesses and visitors of Edison. Patrolman Papaanni was shot and killed in 1971 when he and his partner responded to a silent holdup alarm at a bank at Menlo Park Mall. The suspect opened fire on the officers when they arrived at the scene, striking Patrolman Papaanni in the chest and critically wounding his partner before they were able to exit the patrol car. Patrolman Papaanni had served with the Edison Police Department for three years. This memorial scholarship is given in his memory by the Edison P.B.A.



Phillip J. Capellupo Memorial Scholarship

Philip Capellupo was born in the Bronx, N.Y. and moved to Edison in 1951. He had been Director of Route Proceedings for Pan American World Airways for 40 years. He served in the US Army during World War II and remained in the Reserves for 27 years, retiring in 1973 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Among his many contributions to the community, Phil served as: usher and former member of the Board of Trustees for St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen; board member of the United Way of Central Jersey and of Edison Adult Education; volunteer for the 10/10 Club at JFK Medical Ctr and the Delaware Raritan Girl Scout Council. He was also founder and first president of the Edison Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons and the Middlesex County coordinator of tax counseling for the elderly. Phil was a founder of the Edison Township Association of the PTA/PTO Scholarship Committee. Prior to Phil's death in 1997, the scholarship was simply known as the PTA/PTO Council Scholarship. In memory of Phil, the award has been renamed in his honor.



Stephen G. Achaves Memorial Scholarship

Stephen Achaves began his teaching career at Edison High School in 1960 teaching English. Stephen then went on to become a Guidance Counselor and Supervisor of Guidance EHS before becoming the district's Director of Guidance and Testing K-12. Even though his office eventually moved out of Edison High School and into the Board of Education office, he had a lot of ties and a soft spot in his heart for EHS. Stephen served in the army, was an active member in his Church, past president of the Lion's Club, Alumni Association of the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University, received his Distinguished Service Award in 1979, past president of the Middlesex County Guidance Council and a volunteer member of the Hospice program at St. Peter's Medical Center. As a life-learner, Steve was on his way to achieving a doctorate degree from Rutgers University. He retired from the Edison Public School System in 1982 and passed away in 1985. Throughout his career Steve loved teaching and community service. This memorial was created in his memory and is for someone who will be entering the field of education and is involved in school/community service.

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

IN Appreciation

On behalf of the students and staff of Edison High School, the Administration extends its gratitude to the Board of Education, Central Office Administration, the school community, and the many local organizations for their generous and enthusiastic support in recognizing and honoring the students of Edison High School for their academic achievement. Without your continued support, the Senior Awards Program would not be possible. We sincerely thank all of those who have contributed to the planning and preparation of the Awards Program.

A SPECIAL Thank You To

All of our wonderful Scholarship Donors

Mrs. Josephine Jencsik

EHS Staff for their contributions to the Staff Scholarship and Eagle 2021 Award

Mr. Patrick MacDonald for putting together this wonderful virtual presentation

PM Studios for providing student photos

SCHOLARSHIP Committee

Chaired by

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Shelly Colletto

Patricia Jaworski

Michael Piccolo

Robin Connell

Carolyn McElwain

Jennifer Wallace

Jennifer Harris

José Pan

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

Tonight's honorees will be attending
the following colleges and
organizations in the fall:

American University	Pace University
Boston University	Princeton University
Caldwell University	Rider University
Case Western Reserve University	Rowan University
Cornell University	Rutgers University - Newark
CUNY Brooklyn College	Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Eastwick College	Saint Peter's University
East Stroudsburg University	Seton Hall University
Eckerd College	Stevens Institute of Technology
Georgia Institute of Technology	Stockton University
Georgian Court University	Temple University
Gordon College	The College of New Jersey
Howard University	The Culinary Institute of America
Iowa State University	Thomas Jefferson University
Kean University	United States Air Force
Lycoming College	University of Chicago
Middlesex College	University of Maryland - College Park
Montclair State University	University of Rochester
New Jersey Institute of Technology	University of Wisconsin - Madison
New York University	Wilkes University
Northeastern University	

... And That's What's Great About Edison High!