

Hello Sayville High School Junior,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jamie Atkinson and I reside in Sayville with my wife Brenda. I have four brothers; John, Brian, Daren and Mike. I am a 2000 graduate of Sayville High School a retired New York State MTA Police Detective, and a lifelong volunteer for the Community Ambulance Company in Sayville. I started serving our community when I was 14, as a West Sayville Junior Fireman and a member of the Community Ambulance Youth Squad. When I was 19 years old I responded to the World Trade Center Terrorist Attacks with the Community Ambulance Company. At that time I was the youngest first-responder and as a result of serving in the rescue and recovery operations at the World Trade Center I was diagnosed with an extremely rare stage-four cancer.

My wife, Brenda, is also in law enforcement and in the US Navy. She is a first-generation American citizen, attended Patchogue schools, and received her Bachelor's Degree from C.W. Post College. Her parents migrated here to America from Colombia where they were afforded all the great opportunities that many of us tend to take for granted.

Over the last 8 months my wife and I have been working closely with the University of Notre Dame and Sayville School District Administration to create the **Susan & Harold Atkinson Scholarship** in memory of both my parents. My parents were pioneers in law enforcement and very active in the Sayville Community.

As you will learn, College "life" actually starts before you ever attend a college. It starts with a dream, a dream to make a difference one day, a dream to have a career and be successful in something you love and are passionate about. In an effort to support those dreams my wife and I created a first-of-its-kind, all-inclusive scholarship for a Sayville High School student to participate in the highly competitive Notre Dame Summer Scholars' Program located in South Bend, Indiana from June 26, 2021 thru July 10, 2021. This experience will result in a student obtaining one college credit as well as ample time to enjoy the social facets of college life, especially those unique to renowned Notre Dame University. Additionally, this summer program will strengthen a student's candidacy to attend a competitive college upon graduating from Sayville High School. In order to be considered for the scholarship and to get reimbursed for the application fees anyone interested **MUST apply online through the Notre Dame website and deliver a printed copy of your application to the Sayville High School Guidance Department, no later than Monday, November 30th**. Upon receipt of your applications and essays a committee will review all the material and choose a student best suited for the program.

If for any reason you or your family is not willing to attend Notre Dame University during the period of June 26, 2021 thru July 10, 2021, please do not apply for this scholarship. It is a privilege to be awarded this scholarship so please ensure you are **100% committed to attending the program** as it can NOT be transferred to another applicant once it is awarded.

Also, upon completion of the Summer Scholars Program and graduating from Sayville High School, the student will be awarded an additional \$1,000 dollars scholarship (towards the College of their choice) in the name of Brenda Atkinson's late father **Humberto Orejuela**.

We are providing this scholarship to offer a Sayville High School Student an opportunity of a life time and get a jump start on fulfilling their dreams. We love the Sayville community and this is our way of memorializing the ones we love while making a difference in the life of a Sayville student. We encourage you to apply for this scholarship if you are committed and serious about attending College.

I would like to share one more important thing with you. Brenda and I discussed providing a monetary scholarship, however, we chose to take the time and effort in developing a unique program that would enable an 11th grader to jump start their College education. Also, I want you to keep in mind one very important thing in life that Brenda and I have learned, there is much more to life than money and material things, there are family memories and life experiences that will last for a lifetime. I encourage ALL of you to get involved in your community, give back, and do something special as we can all make a difference in our community or someone else's life.

Thank you and good luck!

Regards,

Jamie & Brenda Atkinson
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