



*Willis High School*

*Class of 2024*

*Senior Awards Night*

May 21st  
6:30 P.M.

Willis ISD Performing Arts Center

Honoring Top 15%, military enlistments,  
and accepted scholarships



# Event Program

**Presentation of the Colors:** Willis High School AFJROTC - Left Guard Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Elaina McDonald, Texas Cadet Staff Sergeant Adrianna Gutierrez, America Cadet 1st Lieutenant Sofia Carnagey, Right Guard Cadet Airmen Aubrie Cameron, BU Cadet 1st Lieutenant Michel Belcher

**National Anthem:** Stephen Brown, Breanna Keelan, Gracie Saucedo

**Opening Remarks:** Eric King, Principal

**Valedictorian Certification:** Eric King, Principal

**Presentation of Awards:** Katelyn Owens, Emcee

## THANK YOU:

**Willis ISD School Board:** Kyle Hoegemeyer, Paulett Traylor, Chad Jones, Nikita Lagway, Scott Carson, Charles Perry, Sr., Cliff Williams

**Willis ISD Central Office Administration:** Dr. Kimberley James, Tom Crowe, John Vaglienty, Dr. Ivan Velasco, Robert Whitman, Garrett Matej, Jamie Fails, Paul Dusebout, Stephen Shannon, Leslie Zemlicka

**Willis High School Administrators:** Eric King, Natalie Priwer, Shaquille Breed, Jason Fojt, Kryshelle Holman, Jamaal Hunnicutt, Katelyn Owens, Jenny Stone

**Willis High School Counselors:** Cindy Adkison, Aracele Garcia, Michelle Gray, Tricia Neumann, Karol Smith, and Brittany Wheaton

Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. England, and Rylee Neumann

Kelly Locke, Col. Jefferson, SMSgt. Bell, and AFJROTC, Mr. Labonski, Ms. Matlock, Ms. Standley, Ms. Meachen, Ms. Greene, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Davis, B207 Office Aides, The Woodlands First Baptist Church, H-E-B Willis

# Honor Graduates

## Summa Cum Laude

Elle Kierstin Wiencke\*  
Riley Layne Heffernan\*  
Benson Terry Merkley\*  
Breanna Nicole Keelan  
Mia Elizabeth Arrington  
Kinley Elizabeth Gibbs\*  
    Rylee Jordan Rick\*  
Jace Ryker Yarborough\*  
    Karley Taylor Frazier\*  
Kelsey Lynn Weddington\*  
Sophia Morgan Hendricks\*  
    James David Bagwell\*  
Tyson Sellers McDowell  
    Christian Gardham  
    Weddington  
Austin Thomas Gaskins\*  
Ashley Elizabeth Flowers\*  
    Casey Brock Patrick\*  
    Madalyn Alexandria  
    Gonzales\*  
Dorcus Bayanbe Bawa\*  
    Marvin Hernandez\*  
Hardin, Ava Reed Hardin\*  
Abigail Grace Johnson\*  
    Kaley Brooke Hall  
    Alex Najera\*  
Reagan Elizabeth Wilson  
Savannah Lenore Moore\*  
Maeghan Bethany Evans\*  
    Kaleigh Marie Kibbey\*  
Grace Elizabeth Wilder\*  
    Wyatt James Johnston

## Magna Cum Laude

Eleanor Lynn McDonald\*  
Samantha Yeley Skelton\*  
Marcus Taylor Shumake  
    Isabel Joy Womak  
Stephanie Ann Kowalski  
Madison Paige Moore  
    Georgia Ann Paugh\*  
Karl Alexander Agaser  
    Artates  
Jordan Bree Montgomery\*  
    Chloe Michelle Robles\*  
    Dalton Cooper Ackley\*  
Kate Elizabeth Wiltshire\*  
    Haley Addison Truett\*  
Samantha Ireen Sullivan  
Addison Margaret Lyons\*  
Diego Alejandro Saucedo  
    Rodrigo Rafael Garcia\*  
    Madeley Renee Nichols\*  
Sophie Isabelle Satterwhite  
    Delaney Brooke New  
    Pedro De Jesus  
    Cantarero, Jr.  
Zander Micheal Beetge  
    Sagheene Eniola Bello  
Zachary Scott Heffernan\*  
    Makinna Nicole Kleb\*  
    Jaden Gunnar Menjivar  
    Austin James May\*  
    Michael David  
    Marquez Conde  
Stephen Andrew Brown, Jr.\*  
    Elizabeth Andrea  
    Hernandez Guerrero

## Cum Laude

Antonio Rito Balon  
Hanna Renee East\*  
Maddison Aubrianna Amari  
    Carrasco\*  
Seth Matthew Sloan  
Daisy Paola Reynoso  
    Gracie Joy Saucedo  
Jazmine Azalea Castro  
Zachary Joseph Lang\*  
Emily Reghan Vaughn\*  
Brock Matthew Perry\*  
Jasmine Lisett Garcia\*  
Balie Catherine Runnels  
    Jacob William Player\*  
Arianna Claire Johnson\*  
Amaya Jane De La Rosa  
    Brandon James Racus  
Hadyn Nadeen Wennihan\*  
Bradley Grant Lottinger  
Cassandra Turruibartes  
    Angel Garcia  
Isaac Robert Stafford\*  
Madison Michelle Carroll  
Natalie Banda Grimaldo  
Akeyah Tay'Veon Gardin\*  
Exavior Wise Sandusky\*  
    Emily Lynn Holland  
Aiden James Green\*  
    Alijah Wayne  
    Wood-Greenwood  
Alexandra Rodriguez  
    Paola Grimaldo

**\* Accepted  
Scholarships**

# Senior Recognitions

## Military Enlistments

Vincent Anthony Flores  
United States Marine Corps

Marcela Elizabeth Garza  
United States Marine Corps

Thomas Kay Inglis  
United States Army National Guard

Asia Grace Kimble  
United States Army

Isaac Martinez  
United States Marine Corps

Joseph Ramirez  
United States Marine Corps

Joseph Daniel Sheldon  
United States Army

Robert Erick Warren  
United States Marine Corps

Alijah Wayne  
Wood-Greenwood  
United States Marine Corps

## Accepted Scholarships

Luna Denea Armendariz  
Eric Marshall Barnett II  
Brinley Grace Birkhead

Aiden Christopher Bostick  
Annette Michelle Bueno

Kynlei Marie Chapman  
Stone Lindell Chapman

Jasmin Kay Davis

Seraiah Na'Shae Davis  
Jakeline Carmela Diaz

Kendrayus Kesean Edwards

Lindsay Ailyn Frias  
Atavian Mykel Fiend

Lilly Elizabeth Galarneau

Jacob Kenneth Gober  
DeBraun Marcel Damond

Hampton

La'Treasure Surrell Harrison  
Elizabeth Cody Cooper

Hicks

Skyler Michele Horton

Julia Joy Howard

John Edward Hudson, Jr.  
Hunter Ralph Inman

## Accepted Scholarships

Maddox Joseph Keo  
Derek Jordan Lagway  
Bethany Ann Lerch

Jadyn Kase Lightfoot  
Haisec Lutz

Jamarion Kenville Major  
Isaac Martinez

Conner Jackson Matthews  
Hunter Martin May  
Cash Bailey Moss  
Daniel Paul Munos

Jose Alfredo Ortiz, Jr.  
Jacob Dylan Pena  
Joseph Ramirez

Keddie David Ramsden  
Camryn Madeline Rausch

Gemma Lynn Roach  
Bethany Aguayo Roberts  
Kayleigh Ann Sevier

Maddox Anthony Steele  
Josiah Sir'Ryan Stephens  
Cheyenne Grace Swonke  
Phoenix Rose Wedgeworth

Kloe Kay Whiteley

## Current Class of 2024 Totals:

**Accepted Scholarships: \$5,543,907.70**

**Offered Scholarships: \$8,603,258.70**

**...and still counting**



# Scholarship Sponsors

Alan M. Gehovak Memorial Scholarship

Assistance League of Montgomery County

Cassidy Hess Memorial Scholarship

Conroe Service League

Daughters of the American Revolution -

Coushatti Trace

Dr. Timothy Gardner, DDS

Eddie Ruth Lagway Memorial Scholarship

First Baptist Church of Conroe Ladies

Friendship Organization

Friends of Conroe

Gullo Dealership

Howard Hughes Corporation

Montgomery County Aggie Club

Montgomery County Fair Association

Montgomery County Association of  
Business Women

Next Generation Leadership Scholarship

Panorama Lions Club

Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott

Royal Texan Homes Mentor Scholarship

Royal Texan Homes

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative

San Jacinto Masonic Lodge

The Carolyn Williams Memorial Scholarship

The Frances Ann Buller Memorial

Scholarship

The Geo Group

The Hivnor Family

The Jessie Hollins Memorial Scholarship

Ladies of Republic Grand Ranch - The

Kathleen Connection Book Club

The North Shore Republican Women's Club

Vera Bank

Whitestone Foundation

Willis Ag Booster

Willis Band Booster

Willis Cheer Booster

Willis Football Booster

Willis Sweethearts Booster

Willis ISD Education Foundation

Willis Lions Club



# Scholarship Sponsors

**Alan M. Gehovak Memorial Scholarship** - Alan was a 2014 Willis High School graduate. He played baseball and also showed animal projects at Montgomery County Fair and several major show venues. He was a member of Champion 4-H and Willis FFA until he graduated. Alan loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was an all-around great country boy! After graduation, he attended SHSU for 2 years to major in Ag Business then he decided he was better suited for the trade industry. He graduated from TEeks Lineman Academy in December 2020 and gained employment at North Houston Pole Line. Alan will be remembered for his kindness and helping hand to others. Congratulations on being a recipient of this scholarship in Alan's memory. We pray for your future and well-being as you pursue your dreams and goals in life.

**Assistance League of Montgomery County:** Assistance League of Montgomery County is pleased to award scholarships to be used during the first year of college and will continue on through senior year if a 2.5 grade point average is maintained. Assistance League is a non-profit organization of over 200 volunteers dedicated to improving lives in Montgomery county. The revenue generated at our Thrift Shop in Conroe is dispersed to nine philanthropic programs such as Scholarship.

**Cassidy Hess Memorial Scholarship:** The Cassidy Joined for Hope Foundation was created after the Hess family lost their oldest daughter, Cassidy, a College Park High School Student, to suicide in 2015. They have turned our pain into our purpose, and their mission now is to spread awareness and prevention of teen suicide in the community and the schools. They created "Joined for Hope" clubs in our schools, which opens the door for the students to start these uncomfortable conversations and be the voices of HOPE to their peers. These students plan events and activities throughout the school year to remind their friends that every life is important and EVERY LIFE MATTERS. These students are truly making a difference in these uncertain times. We pray that you will continue to spread LOVE and LIGHT at each of your college campuses ... and always remember ... "You are doing BETTER than you think you are ... and God is doing MORE than you think He is".

**Conroe Service League:** The Conroe Service League Scholarship Program began in 1961 with a 4-year scholarship in the amount of \$300. In 1970, the League began to present 1- year Fine Arts Scholarships. In 1986 following the death of CSL sponsor Lady Hooper Schaefer, the League decided to honor her by naming the scholarship the Lady Hooper Schaefer Fine Arts Scholarship presented by the Conroe Service League. Since then, the Conroe Service League has continued on the path of raising money and awarding multiple scholarships to Montgomery County high school seniors to assist them with future college expenses. To date, the Conroe Service League has awarded over \$250,000 to hundreds of worthy students.

**Daughters of the American Revolution - Coushatti Trace:** The Coushatti Trace Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are honored to present our scholarship to the outstanding and deserving Willis High School Senior, Kloe Whiteley. They are also honored to present our Good Citizen Award to Jace Yarborough who has demonstrated the qualities of Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism.



# Scholarship Sponsors

**Dr. Timothy Gardner, DDS:** Congratulations on your graduation seniors. You are about to start to understand the true meaning of Self-Reliance! Dr. Gardner and his employees would also like to Thank the Teachers and school administrators for their uncommon dedication to the youth and now young adults of our community. Dr. Gardner owns and operates two dental practices, Conroe and Montgomery Comprehensive Dental Center. This is his 15th Annual \$1,000 Scholarship for all of the surrounding local High Schools. Not only were they looking for a student with Academic Excellence, but also a person who at a young age has learned to pay it forward. The student who we felt was most worthy of this award is: Emily Vaughn.

**Eddie Ruth Lagway Memorial Scholarship:** ER Legacy Foundation, also known as the Lagway Memorial Scholarship, stands as a tribute to the remarkable legacy of Eddie Ruth Lagway, a cherished community leader, dedicated school board member, and a beacon of family values. Established to honor Ms. Lagway's unwavering commitment to education and community service, the foundation seeks to empower future leaders who embody Eddie's spirit of compassion, resilience, and devotion to both family and community. Through scholarships and mentorship programs, the foundation aims to cultivate a generation of changemakers who will carry forward Ms. Lagway's vision of a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

**Friends of Conroe:** The Friends of Conroe Scholarship is awarded to exceptional individuals who demonstrate outstanding academic performance, a strong commitment to their community, and a clear vision for their future.

**Gullo Dealership:** This is the 21st year for the Gullo Dealerships Scholarships. We have been able to give out scholarships to each of the public high schools in Montgomery County each year in the amount of \$2000 for each student. This year we were able to give out 33 scholarships. We wish all the Seniors of Willis High all the best. Gullo Toyota, Mazda and Ford.

**Howard Hughes Corporation:** The Howard Hughes Corporation is a real estate development and management company based in The Woodlands, Texas.

**Kathleen Connection Book Club:** The Republic Grand Ranch Ladies Book Club was founded in January 2022, with Kathleen Fowler actively contributing to its establishment. Kathleen had a strong desire to grow friendship and fellowship in her new Willis community. What began as group of six to eight women quickly grew to over 30 in attendance. Following the passing of Kathleen in November 2023, her Republic Grand Ranch friends resolved to continue her legacy and the book club was renamed "The Kathleen Connection" in her honor.

**Montgomery County Aggie Club:** The Montgomery County A&M Club Foundation has awarded over \$100,000 of scholarships to Montgomery County students entering Texas A&M for the 2023-2024 school year. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients: Breanna Keelan and Kinley Gibbs





# Scholarship Sponsors

**Montgomery County Association of Business Women:** Montgomery County Association of Business Women provides a local forum for business women to develop and enhance professional and personal relationships with their peers. The mission does not reflect individual effort; it promotes effort within us and others to assist in personal and professional growth through our mentoring program and events. The ladies in MCABW are professionals, community volunteers and business leaders who leverage their time, skills, relationships and resources to improve the quality of life in Montgomery County.

**Montgomery County Fair Association:** The Montgomery County Fair Association scholarship program is made up of monies derived from the Scholarship Trail Ride and Scholarship Chili Cook-off events and from a percentage of the totals of the Livestock and Non-Livestock Auctions. Combining our Scholarship program with several other Fair programs, the Fair Association will be giving \$153,000.00 in scholarships this year. Over \$2 million has been given to graduating seniors since the Scholarship program began in 1993. The Fair Association will be giving a \$2,500.00 scholarship to the ranking and qualified applicants from each high school in our county. A total of 50 scholarships will be given.

**Panorama Lions Club:** The Panorama Lions are men and women who work together to serve the needs of Panorama Village. We have proudly served Panorama Village and surrounding community for 43 years, through acts of local philanthropy and service, including providing scholarships for students.

**Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott:** Perdue Brandon is honored to participate in this amazing event. The firm is in constant amazement at the talented individuals coming from Willis ISD. Perdue Brandon wishes to congratulate all of the recipients for their hard work, determination and perseverance and wishes them the best luck in their future endeavors.

**Royal Texan Homes Mentor Scholarship:** Thank you to Royal Texan Homes for mentoring students and for generously donating scholarships to twelve Willis High School seniors from the RISE Mentor Program. We are so proud of them for modeling great character and perseverance throughout her education at Willis ISD.

**Royal Texan Homes CTE Scholarship: Grace Wilder** is one of the hardest-working students I know this year. She is known by her peers to be the momma hen because she is always helping others and keeping everyone on track. She has had to endure her mom going through chemo and radiation and still stayed very positive and focused. She has such a compassionate and loving heart for others. You would have never known anything was going on at home. Her ethics are high and expectations for herself are even higher. This is a student that will endure college and be successful. Any help we can give her will be appreciated by her. She is always very appreciative of others that pour into her and her future. She is also a very humble person. **Maeghan Evans** - Maeghan exemplifies the characteristics of a scholar. She is studious and extremely brilliant. I have not had many like her in my years, and the best word I have for her is BRILLIANT. She had her share of choices to continue her education, was accepted to multiple universities, and has chosen to go to Texas Tech and pursue her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.



# Scholarship Sponsors

**San Jacinto Masonic Lodge:** The San Jacinto Lodge #106 A.F. & A.M. was chartered in Willis, Texas on January 31, 1853; the organization is a social and philanthropic organization meant to make its members lead more virtuous and socially oriented lives; they actively support Willis athletes with their scholarships.

**The Carolyn Williams Memorial Scholarship:** This is the 22nd year for the Carolyn Williams Memorial Scholarship. Each year there are many qualified applicants that apply for this scholarship. When narrowing down the applicants the committee looks for the following characteristics that were very important to our Mother: determination, integrity, work ethic, selflessness and character.

**The Frances Ann Buller Memorial Scholarship:** The Frances Ann Buller Memorial Scholarship is given by William Buller in memory of his wife, to whom he was married for over 50 years, out of their love and support for the WHS Softball program.

**The Geo Group:** GEO provides complementary, turnkey solutions for numerous government partners worldwide across a spectrum of diversified correctional and community reentry services. From the development of state-of-the-art facilities and the provision of management services and evidence-based rehabilitation to the post-release reintegration and supervision of individuals in the community, GEO offers fully diversified, cost-effective services that deliver enhanced quality and improved outcomes.

**The Hivnor Family:** The Hivnor Family's involvement in education and athletics has been a life-long commitment. Mr. Hivnor grew up in Appalachia - his parents only went to the 8th grade for there was no high school. He knew from an early age that his only way out of his environment was to dream big and achieve in academics and athletics. Harvey represented the American Dream. He started in poverty - no running water - one pair of jeans and one shirt for school - supporting his parents while in high school and college. He asked for nothing - took nothing - stole nothing. By sheer will power and work ethic, as well as his belief in his fellow man, he built a multi-million-dollar business supplying many other families with jobs and opportunities they would never have had. Harvey gave all. He would give those who needed it a second chance on life. Some succeeded - others did not. But he gave them that chance. You never told him that he could not do something. Can't was not a part of his vocabulary. Instead, he said, figure it out - don't give up - don't make excuses - personal responsibility is paramount. The Hivnor Memorial Scholarship was established in his memory and is awarded to a student who we believe possesses Harvey's values and determination.

**The Jesse Hollins Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship was founded to honor the memory of Willis graduate Jessie Edward Hollins. After high school, Mr. Hollins attended San Jacinto College and was drafted to play baseball for the Chicago Cubs in 1988.

**The Ladies Friendship Organization:** The Ladies' Friendship Organization is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Conroe. The scholarship is funded by our market that we host each year in October in addition to individual donations. Because of the hard work of our ladies and the funds raised, all five applicants that applied were each awarded a scholarship of \$2,500.00 of which Julia Howard was one of the recipients.



# Scholarship Sponsors

**The North Shore Republican Women's Club:** We are committed to actively supporting Republican candidates, informing our membership of the political process and the issues affecting all of us; to providing strength and unity to the party, and to offering a source of year-round volunteer service of our members.

**United States Military Recruiters:** Willis High School would like to extend the most sincere gratitude to the recruiters from the different branches of the United States Military that work so diligently with our students in making their goals of serving a reality:

*SSG Cleveland Burnley III - United States Army*

*ABH2 Noel Rulloda - United States Navy*

*SSgt Brittany Thompson - United States Marine Corps*

*TSgt Paul Lamintina - United States Air Force*

*SSG Daniel Marshall - United States Army National Guard*

**Vera Bank:** The VeraBank scholarship program began in 2017 and has since awarded \$90,000 in scholarships to 40 recipients. Scholarship recipients, all of whom are children of VeraBank employees, are selected by a Scholarship Committee each year and the identity of each applicant remains anonymous throughout the selection process. Selections are based on the students' merit, academic performance, content and completeness of replies and application, as well as school and community involvement.

**Whitestone Foundation:** Whitestone began in 2016 as a 501c nonprofit organization. We are local business leaders, clergy, doctors and professionals who have been blessed in many ways, one of which is financially. We feel that God has charged us with the responsibility of among other things, sharing these blessings with Christian-centered, hardworking people. We accomplish this task by providing financial assistance through scholarships. Congratulations and we are praying God's blessings on you!

**Willis Ag Booster:** The Willis Ag Booster organization awards two scholarships, an Academic Scholarship and an Ag Mechanics Scholarship. Recipients must be active members in good standing in FFA or 4H, participating in Educational Seminars, completing projects, and volunteering at organization events.

**Willis Band Booster:** The Willis Band Boosters are a 501(c) organization run by parents/guardians of program participants that manages fundraising and other projects to ensure that students are well served to the highest level, including opportunities to support furthering their educational goals. Students must have participated in band all 4 years of high school, and focuses on dedication, leadership, academics, and extracurriculars.



# Scholarship Sponsors

**Willis Cheer Booster:** The Willis High School Cheer Booster awards scholarships to WHS Varsity Cheerleaders who have cheered all four years of high school. The cheerleaders chosen exhibit good character and are leaders on campus.

**Willis Football Booster:** The Willis High School Football Booster club seeks to support scholar athletes that are active members in their school and local community, providing service to others, and role models for others.

**Willis ISD Education Foundation:** The Willis ISD Education Foundation is a non-profit, volunteer organization that provides an avenue for business and community members to enhance the education process. People from all sectors of the community are invited to become involved in the support and improvement of the quality of education.

**Willis Lions Club:** Willis Lions Club is a proud organization serving the community of Willis, Texas. We have a nearly 40 year history serving as the city's only civic organization. Founded in 1975, Willis Lions Club has been dedicated to serving our community through educational scholarships, the Lions Club flag program, serving the elderly at local nursing homes and kids with physical disabilities with Texas Lions Camp. As one of 46,000 clubs with a total of 1.35 million members, Willis Lions Club is dedicated to making our community a better place.

**Willis Sweethearts:** The Sweetheart Dance Scholarships help provide qualified members of the Sweethearts Dance Team an opportunity to continue their education. Two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded to Senior members: the Alicia Williams Memorial Scholarship and the Sweethearts Community Service Scholarship.

