



Captain Jennifer J. Harris
Educational Trust



In the days immediately following the downing of Captain Harris's helicopter, the Harris family established a scholarship program in her name to continue her legacy of serving others. This program would provide two scholarships, one each for:

- a) a graduating high school student or GED recipient from Nahant or Swampscott for college expenses;
- b) a JROTC graduating senior from one of five cities/town in the North Shore region of Boston – Beverly, Gloucester, Lynn, Peabody, and Salem – for college or military expenses.

In the Spring of 2007, the **First Annual Captain Jennifer J. Harris Memorial Scholarships** were awarded through a scholarship committee for each scholarship identifying three students as the first recipients. The Swampscott/Nahant Citizen scholarship was awarded to Kate Elizabeth Bartholomew, a Swampscott High School Senior who would be attending the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.



Kate Elizabeth
Bartholomew

Jen's Aunt Linda and Uncle Tony are shown with each of the scholarship recipients. There was great difficulty in selecting just one JROTC recipient so the family awarded two scholarships to students who, unknown to the Family, had lives that uniquely paralleled Jen's. The JROTC 2007 recipients were Andrew Brian Henkenmeier and Ariel Hope Sargent.



Andrew was a member of Lynn English High School's JROTC Program and would be attending Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Bourne, MA. Jen's great uncle attended Mass Maritime and the two shared a relationship that was particularly supportive during her years at the Naval Academy. Andrew's compassion for others was evident in his participation in community service activities, a sample of which included: Habitat for Humanity; Toys for Tots; Cancer

Walks and Cerebral Palsy Walks; placing American flags on the gravesites of veterans; flag burning ceremonies that honor our American flag; and, local school and community Clean-up projects.

The Scholarship Committee was particularly impressed with Andrew's commitment to those who have given their lives for our country. He had participated in the funeral services of three local heroes – Staff Sergeant Christopher Piper from Marblehead, Specialist Jared Raymond from Swampscott, and Jen, for whom he carried the American Flag on February 19, 2007 at her funeral as member of a local color guard, standing outside the Church during the entire funeral mass in blistery cold weather conditions of sub-zero degrees.

Sharing in the First Annual Captain Jennifer J. Harris Memorial JROTC Scholarship was



Ariel Hope Sargent, a member of Gloucester High School's JROTC program who would be attending Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts. Ariel showed a compassion and sympathy for Jen's family and an appreciation for Jen's sacrifice that was unparalleled among scholarship applicants. She also mirrored Jen's interests in music and the arts and participated in community service activities that

included visiting the local nursing homes to spend time with veterans and parents or spouses of veterans.

Last year the community rallied to offer more than seven students scholarships and awards in Jen's name. This was an overwhelming tribute to Jen. It demonstrated how much of an impact she had on people's lives whether they knew her personally or were appreciative of her sacrificing her life to save others and her service to our Country. Her compassion, generosity, and service to others circled back and people have helped her continue to help others through these scholarships.

All of the 2007 scholarships are listed below and several of the scholarships offered by groups other than Jen's family will continue in 2008.

Following the Spring 2007 awards, Jen's family began the work of establishing an educational trust. This would ensure that Jen's Family Scholarships – the Swampscott/Nahant Citizen and the North Shore Region JROTC – would continue to live on. The Trust became official in December 2007 with two generations of trustees.

Applications for the 2008 Nahant/Swampscott Citizen and JROTC North of Boston Region scholarships are available by emailing Harris_Scholarship@verizon.net. Application deadline is April 25, 2008.

People wishing to contribute to the Harris Family's Educational Trust may send donations to the **Captain Jennifer J. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund, C/O Eastern Bank, 405 Paradise Road, Swampscott, MA 01907**



2007 Scholarships and Awards

Harris Family Scholarships

Captain Jennifer J. Harris Memorial Scholarship – Swampscott/Nahant Citizen

Kate Elizabeth Bartholomew
Swampscott High School Senior

Captain Jennifer J. Harris Memorial Scholarship – JROTC North Shore Region

Ariel Hope Sargent
Gloucester High School Senior

Andrew Brian Henkenmeier
Lynn English High School Senior

Marine Corp League: *Captain Jennifer J. Harris Memorial Scholarship*

Stephanie Miller
Swampscott High School Senior and Class President

Eastern Bank Scholarship: *Jennifer J. Harris Memorial Scholarships*

Jaelyn Cabral
Jayne Spineli
Swampscott High School Seniors

Swampscott Public Library: *Jennifer Harris Education Award*

Inna Kreychman
Swampscott Public Library Page

Awards were also given by the USNA Parents Club of Greater Boston and the Friends of Swampscott, MA Sailing Program.