For Immediate Release
November 8, 2021

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2021 FAMILY MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) recently provided $13,000 in scholarships to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students who are sponsored by a member of the Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS (COA). These scholarships are funded by active duty and retired U.S. Public Health Service members, local COA branches, and others. The Foundation wishes to thank them for their generosity.

The scholarship review committee found the Spring 2021 cohort to be quite impressive – outstanding students with promising futures. Applicants were scored based on their career aspirations, school & community activities, honors/awards, and academic performance.

The twelve 2021 recipients are:

• **Addyson Trendel**: Nursing, University of Kansas (LCDR Gretchen Trendel)

• **Emily Fenno**: Physical Therapy, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire (CDR James Fenno)

• **Evelyn Davidson**: Nursing, Indiana Wesleyan University (CAPT Bryan Davidson)

• **Grace Manning**: Molecular Biology, Colorado College (LCDR Jennifer Manning)

• **Katarina Fiorentino**: Speech-language Pathology, Florida State University (CDR Douglas Fiorentino)

• **Katherine Gora Combs**: Epidemiology, University of North Carolina (CAPT Jeffery Combs)

• **Kevin Xu**: Computer Science/Biology, Johns Hopkins University (CDR Fei Xu)

• **Kyler Martin-Yeboah**: Computer Engineering, Louisiana State University (CDR Garrette Martin-Yeboah)

• **Megan Goroski**: Biology, Grand Canyon University (CAPT Dean Goroski)

• **Miguel Verani**: Biology, Washington University (CAPT Jennifer Verani) – Lessing Scholarship*

• **Nam Phuong Pommier**: Nutrition and Exercise Science, Rowan University (LCDR Ryan Pommier)

• **Shelby Bachini**: Nursing, Dixie State University (LCDR Steven Bachini)

* Ronald Lessing, DBA, MS, had a lifelong devotion to learning and teaching in science and mathematics. He served as a full-time Public Health Service civilian employee of various agencies within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and received numerous honors and awards for outstanding performance. A devoted husband and father, Ronald Lessing tragically succumbed to a malignant disease on April 7, 1976, leaving a wife and three young sons. This award was established by his family to honor his legacy.

More information about the COF Family Member Scholarships can be found at:  
https://www.phscof.org/scholarships/family-member-scholarships/