

## **KBA Scholarships 2021**

### **Ron Cochran Spirit Scholarship**

The Ron Cochran Spirit Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates strength of character and moral integrity through Christian faith-based pursuits. The late Ron Cochran was President of KBA in 1988. He was a positive, outgoing man and loved life. Ron Cochran was well known for his sense of humor and storytelling.

### **Terry Chandler Taking Care of Business Scholarship**

The Terry Chandler Taking Care of Business Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in the pursuit of leadership in the local business community. Terry Chandler served as President of the KBA in 1993 and 1999. He served as Chairman of the Big Shanty Festival for 10 years and helped develop the guidelines for KBA's additional activities including the very popular Alive After 5 evening events. Terry Chandler is retired from his long-time position as Manager of the Jennie T. Anderson Theater in Cobb County.

### **Michael Everhart Communications Scholarship**

The Michael Everhart Communications Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates excellence in the field of communications. Michael Everhart was President of KBA in 2005 and 2013, and the Cobb Chamber of Commerce Kennesaw Citizen of the Year in 2014. He is widely known as “the voice of Kennesaw”, not only announcing at the KBA events including 17 years of announcing the Big Shanty Festival parade, but also providing his skills at many of the city of Kennesaw public events. Michael Everhart is the chair of the Taste of Kennesaw annual event, co-owner of Great Gig Dance Co. in Kennesaw, and manager of Southern Office Machines.

### **Marlon Longacre Heart of a Champion Scholarship**

The Marlon Longacre Heart of a Champion Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates tenacity and perseverance in overcoming obstacles and adversity. Marlon Longacre served as President of the Kennesaw Business Association in 2003 and continues to serve as the Chair of the annual Big Shanty Festival and the Education Committee. Marlon is a Community Pastor at Piedmont Church.

### **Mark Barre Visual Arts Scholarship**

The Mark Barre Visual Arts Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates talent and excellence in the field of visual arts. Mark Barre was President of the KBA in 2014. He owns Image 360, a signage and graphics design and production company in Kennesaw.

### **Olivia Smathers Performing Arts Scholarship**

The Olivia Smathers Performing Arts Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates talent and excellence in the performing arts, and seeks to further and promote the arts in the local community and beyond. Olivia Smathers was the co-

founder of *The Little General Cloggers* in 1972 to celebrate the homecoming of the General, a steam locomotive stolen by Union spies in the Great Locomotive Chase, an attempt to cripple the Confederate rail network during the American Civil War. *The Little General Cloggers* were so popular that they became the Ambassadors of the city of Kennesaw, as well as the state of Georgia. Under Olivia Smathers' leadership the group danced in Nashville at the Grand Ole Opry every year for over 40 years. Through the energy and vision of Olivia Smathers, *The Little General Cloggers* spread goodwill and good wishes from both the city of Kennesaw and the state of Georgia for 41 years.

### **Kevin Jabbari Athletic Scholarship**

The Kevin Jabbari Athletic Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates talent and excellence in athletics. Kevin Jabbari was President of the Kennesaw Business Association in 2004 and has a deep love of sports. Kevin Jabbari is the owner of Jabbari Property Services, a commercial real estate and property management firm in Kennesaw.

### **Debbie Underkofler Culinary Arts Scholarship**

The Debbie Underkofler Culinary Arts Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who has demonstrated talent and excellence in the field of culinary arts. Debbie Underkofler was president of the Kennesaw Business Association in 2007 and presently serves as Chair of the Kennesaw Museum Foundation. She is President and CEO of North Georgia Staffing, a Human Resource Consulting and Staffing Service based in Kennesaw.

### **Paul Chastain Citizen Scholarship (NCCS)**

The Paul Chastain Citizen Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from North Cobb Christian School who demonstrates principles of high moral integrity, excellent academic performance, and strength of character. Paul Chastain was President of KBA in 1989. He was the first chairman of the Kennesaw Museum Foundation and was very involved in our community for many years.

### **Ron Sumpter Trailblazer Scholarship (Harrison)**

The Ron Sumpter Trailblazer Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Harrison High School who demonstrates the ability and fortitude to make a difference in the community through positive endeavors. Ron Sumpter was President of KBA in 2006 and is the Development Director, Church Relations for MUST Ministries.

### **Carol Thompson Journalism Scholarship (NCHS)**

The Carol Thompson Journalism Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from North Cobb High School who has demonstrated dedication and commitment in print or media-based journalism. Carol Thompson is the founder and owner of the Bright Side Community Newspaper. Founded in 1992, the paper publishes positive news and events for Acworth, Kennesaw and Marietta. Carol is also an original member of the Kennesaw Business Association, which was formed in 1975.

### **David Grant ROTC Scholarship (NCHS)**

The David Grant ROTC Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from North Cobb High School who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the ROTC program, as well as support both present and future for our United States Military. David Grant was President of the Kennesaw Business Association in 1990. He served in the United States Air Force for 24 years (5 years active duty, 19 years in the reserves) and retired as a Colonel. He is a veteran of Desert Storm. David Grant is a State Farm Insurance agent serving the Cobb County community.

### **Rene Dollar Future Business Leader Scholarship (NCHS)**

The Rene Dollar Future Business Leader Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from North Cobb High School who has demonstrated leadership in the field of business in the local community. Rene Dollar has served on the KBA Board of Directors, has been Chair of Wake-Up KBA and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Luncheons, and has served on the Education Committee. In 2016, she was named the Cobb Chamber of Commerce Kennesaw Citizen of the Year, as well as the KBA Citizen of the Year. Rene Dollar is Vice President of ServisFirst Bank.

### **RJ Patel International Magnet Student Scholarship (NCHS)**

The RJ Patel International Magnet Student Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from North Cobb High School who demonstrates excellent academic performance and development of a global perspective on politics, culture, scientific understanding and communication. RJ Patel was President of KBA in 2002 and 2008. Born in England, RJ and his family moved to the United States when he was in his teens. He is the owner of Prestigious Cleaning Team in Kennesaw.

### **Dr. Frank Boone Community Service Scholarship (KMHS)**

The Dr. Frank Boone Community Service Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Kennesaw Mountain High School who demonstrates strong commitment to the value of serving the local community. Dr. Frank Boone was the founder of the Kennesaw Business Association, and served as president four times (1975, 1978, 1983 and 1995). He had a deep love for Kennesaw and was the moving force for the purchase of the properties that now comprise Swift Cantrell Park and Smith Gilbert Gardens.

### **JRM Character Scholarship (KMHS)**

The JRM Character Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Kennesaw Mountain High School who demonstrates moral integrity and commitment to building individual strength of character through their commitment to excellence in scholastic pursuits, extracurricular activities, and community service. JRM Management Services are Event Specialists, coordinating and overseeing concerts, "Taste of..." events, arts and craft shows, festivals, golf tournaments and several fairs including the North Georgia State Fair for over 35 years. In addition the company manages four Cobb County business associations. JRM Management was named the Kennesaw Citizen of

the Year in 2017 by the Chamber of Commerce and KBA Community Citizens of the Year in 2020.

### **Kennesaw Mayoral Scholarship (KMHS)**

The Mayoral Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Kennesaw Mountain High School who demonstrates leadership skills through their involvement in student government and/or community-based organizations. This award is presented by the current Mayor of Kennesaw. Kennesaw Mayor, Derek Easterling is in his second term as mayor and is the Commander of the North Cobb-Harrison JROTC at North Cobb High School.

### **Sue Gunderman Servant Leader Scholarship (KMHS)**

The Sue Gunderman Servant Leader Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Kennesaw Mountain High School who has demonstrated perseverance and drive as a leader in the school and local community. Sue Gunderman was the first Principal of Kennesaw Mountain High School. Under her leadership, KMHS gained national recognition for its exemplary academic accomplishments as well as its outstanding Service Learning and Character Education programs.

### **Wally Zimmerman Vocational Scholarship (KMHS)**

The Wally Zimmerman Vocational Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from Kennesaw Mountain High School who demonstrates excellence in vocational educational pursuits. Wally Zimmerman was President of KBA in 1998. He is an avid believer in vocational education, having owned an automotive body shop in Kennesaw (Crashmasters) for several years.

### **Sue Picardi Math and Science Magnet Scholarship (KMHS)**

The Sue Picardi Math and Science Magnet Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from the Kennesaw Mountain High School Magnet Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology who demonstrates excellence in academic performance. Sue Picardi served as a member of the KBA Board of Directors for 8 years, was highly active and influential on the KBA Education Committee, and is the co-owner of Active Financial Group in Kennesaw.