
The Scholarship Program

***A Stateside Candidate is chosen
Resident of Harvard Nebraska
Will study chemistry***

Those of you who were present at the business meeting at the Dayton reunion will remember that the members approved the awarding of one scholarship award of \$1,000 to one eligible student in the continental United States. (Note: The amount was incorrectly stated in the Annual Meeting report in Flyer #29) The requirement was that the student should be attending Harvard High School in Harvard, Nebraska.

Why choose Harvard Army Air Field out of all the training bases in the USA? Harvard was the base where the 484th Bomb Group was assembled for phase training before deployment overseas. In essence, Harvard, Nebraska was the birthplace of the 484th, so it was fitting to choose our birthplace for the first scholarship award in the continental USA.

What was phase training? The ten men bomber crews were assembled here in Harvard, most to meet each other for the first time. This is where the crews were taught teamwork and were molded into highly efficient machines. They were thought to share their skills with other crew members, so that in the case of emergencies, the other man could carry on the duties and prevent a total loss of the aircraft and crew.

All of the men who trained at Harvard became the "Original Cadre" who shared the same instructors, and the same training techniques and were more alike than replacement crews arriving at Torretta where the group became operational. Joe Hebert of the Scholarship Committee suggested the Harvard site.

Our first stateside award goes to Jennifer Schwenk, who will use her scholarship award to study chemistry at the University of Nebraska in preparation for a degree in pharmacy. She hopes to work as a pharmacist in a hospital where she feels her chosen profession will help patients in recommending the right medication to the medical staff.

"I enjoy knowing people count on me and like to work when the pressure is on. I want to be there in the emergencies making the decisions that could save the life of a person. I want to be able to use my math and chemistry skills for the good of others. If I know that I can feel good about my work, then I know I will feel good about myself. This will cause me to be happy and have a purpose.

"Helping people, I believe is the most important part of my chosen occupation. I plan on always keeping this as my top priority. I want to be able to say that I made a difference in this world through my career," she states in her career goals form.

The Clay County, Nebraska newspaper published the story of the awards ceremony on the front page with a photograph of Vernon Janke presenting the award to the High School Valedictorian and the 484th BG awardee Jennifer Schwenk, while the school principal Brent Williamson looked on.



Jennifer Schwenk, recipient of the 484th Bomb Group's first stateside scholarship award.

Jennifer's Letter

Dear Members of the 484th Bomb Group Association:

Hello! My name is Jennifer Schwenk. I was recently honored at my high school graduation with the first 484th Bomb Group Association Scholarship to be given at Harvard High School at Harvard, Nebraska. I wish to accept this scholarship not only for myself, but for Harvard High School and all of its graduates. It is truly an honor. I personally would like to say thank you for the money which I will use for housing this fall when I attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

When I attend UNK next year I will be enrolled in pre-pharmacy. I will be majoring in chemistry. After two years, hopefully I will be accepted into the pharmacy school at the University Medical School in Omaha. Right now I think I would like to be a hospital pharmacist, but I realize there are many areas in

this field to choose from.

I am a third generation graduate of Harvard High School. My father is a farmer. My mother is the school secretary. I have an older brother in college and a younger brother, who is still in high school. I have participated in many areas during my school years. I have been in speech and drama, band and chorus, and athletics. I am also active in my church.

I understand that your group started this scholarship in Italy as a way to "pay back" for some of the damage that was done during the war. I know it is a coincidence that I received this scholarship, however I thought you might find it interesting to know that my paternal great-grandparents Schwenk were displaced from their home during the war by the Air Base for the rifle range. They were allowed to go back to farm after the war, but they never moved back to their house after it had been empty for 3 years. It is in that same yard that my family now lives, only in a different house.

Also, my mother says that I should tell you that my maternal great-grandparents, Vern and Isabel Frank ran the movie theater during the war. It was on the west side of the street in downtown Harvard. Perhaps some of you remember them.

In closing, I would like to once again say "thank you". Thank you for the scholarship that you have given Harvard High School, thank you for the money you have given to me for college, and most of all thank you for what you did in the 1940s to ensure that we would have a safe peaceful world. God Bless You All!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Schwenk