

Yuliya Harris



Yuliya Harris received the “Thomas R. Maines Award in Memory of SFC Ralph E. Rickenbacher” presented by the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation. Yuliya’s sponsor is her father, Edward T. Harris, who served with 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry in the early 1970s. Yuliya is majoring in biology and Russian at Wayne State University. Throughout high school, she maintained a high GPA and contributed much time to community service and fund-raising projects. She is a well-rounded athlete in the areas of swimming and field hockey and is the two-time recipient of both the “Scholar Athlete” award and the “Athena Award,” presented to students maintaining an A-average throughout four years of foreign language study. Toward her goal of becoming a doctor of osteopathy, Yuliya is a frequent volunteer at hospitals. In her essay entitled “Patriotism Redefined,” Yuliya describes the essence of America as “freedom under Democracy,” and she believes patriotism must be defined by each individual with the overriding control of the definition embodied in Lincoln’s quotation: “I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.” She believes this and that “personal aspirations define patriotism for all of us, not just soldiers, policemen, and firemen who save lives and protect our freedom.” She is the perfect candidate to receive the Rickenbacher award, because Ralph E. Rickenbacher supported the same philosophies regarding patriotism. She, as did Rickenbacher, will serve American’s freedom under Democracy without question.