



### **AG1 Edward T. Earhart Memorial Scholarship**

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Jackson, KY has always expressed a desire to help students with their educational endeavors. As an expression of those desires, a scholarship was established for students to attend the Lees College Campus of Hazard Community College. Beginning in 1997, "The Jackson Weather Office Employee Scholarship" awarded disbursements of \$125 per semester, for a total of \$250 per academic year. From 1997 through 2003, seven eastern Kentucky students benefited from the scholarship. The scholarship remains but something happened that would forever change it.

On September 11, 2001, the Pentagon was destroyed by an unforgivable act of terrorism, and many Americans perished in the catastrophe. One of those Americans was Rowan County native Edward T. Earhart. Aerographers Mate 1st Class, Ed Earhart was assigned to the Pentagon METOC Component of the Naval Ice Center. AG1 Earhart graduated from Rowan County High School and attended Morehead State University prior to Enlisting in the Navy. AG1 Earhart loved to teach school children about the weather and had desires to finish his college degree in the Washington D.C. area. AG1 Ed Earhart was a leader with an unflinching willingness to get the job done right.

Many fine, brave folks died on this horrible day and the tragedy changed all of our lives. When we became aware that a Navy weatherman from eastern Kentucky perished at the Pentagon, it hit us very hard. Not many people work in the weather business and if you are in it very long, you get to know most of them.

There is also a special bond between soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. This also adds to our grief because many on our staff began their careers in the Military. We did not know Ed Earhart personally, however we became friends with his family. At our request, and with the family's permission, the scholarship was renamed in the fall of 2003 to, "The Jackson Weather Office AG1 Edward T. Earhart Memorial Scholarship.

On October 19, 2004, the family of Ed Earhart donated \$5,000 dollars to the scholarship fund. I really don't know how to express our gratitude to the Earhart Family for this gesture. The Earhart Family donation, combined with continuous donations from the local weather staff, enabled the scholarship to become endowed. On November 5, 2007, an Endowment Agreement was signed by members of the Earhart Family, NWS staff, and, Hazard Community and Technical College System.

In 1997, the Scholarship awarded \$125 per semester, for a total of \$250 per academic year. Over the past 18 years the NWS staff has remained dedicated to meeting the needs of Eastern Kentucky students. Currently, the Earhart Scholarship Endowment provides \$800.00 per semester for a total of \$1600 dollars per academic year. This Fall 2015 semester, the NWS staff has pledged to sponsor an additional student at \$800 dollar per semester rate. Many former staff members continue to donate to the Earhart Scholarship after their departure from this office. NWS Jackson is very proud of the Earhart Scholarship and its growth over the years.

Hopefully the Earhart Scholarship will allow us to reflect on those men and women, both military and civilian, who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. It will also help to honor an extraordinary young man from Salt Lick, Kentucky. Ed Earhart served his community and nation with distinction; may he be a reminder to all that we have the opportunity to serve.



Back row, L to R, Carla Seale (HCTCS), Claudette Thomas (aunt), Andi (sister), Jennifer Vogt-Miller (NWS), Krystal Vogt-Miller (NWS Spouse), Les and Toni Thomas (uncle-aunt), Ellie (cousin) Frank Terrizzi (retired NWS). Dave Stamper (NWS), Bonnie Terrizzi (retired NWS) Blake (nephew).

On June 18, 2015, a luncheon was held at the National Weather Service office in Jackson, KY. Gathered were members of Ed Earhart family, Hazard Community and Technical College System staff, and National Weather Service staff. During the luncheon, the current and future status of the “Jackson Weather Office AG1 Edward T. Earhart Memorial Scholarship” was discussed. The Earhart Family was enroute to a family reunion in Georgia and stopped by the NWS office for a visit. It was very nice to sit down with Ed’s family. Following is a brief history of the “The Jackson Weather Office AG1 Edward T. Earhart Memorial Scholarship.

If you want to donate to the Earhart Scholarship, make check or money orders payable to:

**Edward Earhart Memorial Scholarship**

**Send to: Hazard Community College  
One Community College Drive  
Hazard, Ky. 41701**

Dave Stamper

Submitted by Fay Crossley, HRC Secretary