I am truly honored to have been selected as a recipient of the 2024 Colonel Charles Schmidt Leadership Award. This scholarship will greatly benefit me and my family and ease the financial burden of college tuition as I begin my studies to become a Petroleum Engineer at Texas Tech University this fall. I humbly accept this scholarship in remembrance of the countless lives lost during and following the Vietnam War. I am forever grateful for the sacrifices my grandfather, Julio N. Garcia, made for our country and my family. As a child, I would sit beside him and read about the heroic and selfless acts that many men performed for our country in issues of Thunder Run. I truly understood just what each man sacrificed for people like me.  
I am highly grateful to the 11th ACVVC Board of Directors and Mrs. Bonnie Schmidt for selecting me for a highly honorable award.

Nicholas Ornelas, grandson of Julio Garcia, K trp., Charles L. Schmidt Leadership Award scholarship winner