I’m honored to receive the 2025 Colonel Charles Schmidt Leadership Award. This scholarship will help me develop professionally and academically during my upcoming time at the University of Virginia, where I plan to major in Commerce. I’m especially grateful to my grandfather, Lane Schultz, and to the countless other American heroes who served in Vietnam. While we can never repay the debts we owe to our veterans, I promise to put this gift towards the betterment of America by expanding my skills in college, ultimately giving back through my future career. I’d like to thank this amazing Scholarship Committee. Their tireless work ensures that our veterans will never be forgotten while investing in the development of the next generation. To all who served and orchestrated this award, thank you again for this opportunity.

Matthew Fooks, grandson of Lane Schultz, HHT 3/11, Schmidt Award winner