I am a proud legacy daughter of several veterans who have selflessly served our country. My grandpa served boldly in Vietnam, where he carried a radio essential for communications into the middle of a brutal warzone. It is now officially recognized that his unit was exposed to the area with the highest concentration of Agent Orange during the war. Upon returning home, he faced numerous health challenges, including a diagnosis of diabetes, likely due to exposure. Despite these obstacles, he refused to give up. My grandpa found strength and healing through exercise. Through his efforts, he even went so far as to beat his diagnosis and come out healthy. Today, at the age of 80, he continues to run alongside the high school and middle school athletes he coaches. While both of my parents also served honorably in the Air Force, my grandpa Kieffer stands out as one of the most inspiring figures in my life. Not only did he put his life on the line in a warzone, but when the battle continued back home, in several different aspects, my grandfather continued on and pushed back. My grandpa always came out on top, no matter the obstacle, and I really admire and look up to him in that aspect.

 To me, this scholarship represents meaningful support as I navigate a different kind of challenge—college. While not a battlefield, college presents its own pressures, especially when it comes to financial concerns. This scholarship will provide invaluable assistance as I pursue my education and work toward becoming an officer in the United States Air Force.

 I have long dreamed of becoming one of the Air Force’s top pilots. Whether that ambition sounds bold or not, it is something I genuinely strive for. I believe I am fully capable of achieving it.

 A flight instructor once told me, “In no way, shape, or form is flying a one-person sport. Know when to ask for help, and when to take it. Know your limits.” To me, this scholarship represents exactly that—asking for help in the form of financial support to achieve a lifelong goal. The path ahead will be long but I am prepared.

 Thank you for this generous opportunity. I am committed to honoring this scholarship and the mission behind it. Your support has made my dream more attainable, and I hope to make you proud.

Anna Walker granddaughter of Thomas Kieffer, HHT 3/11, KIA dedicated to Raymond D. Crowder Jr, K trp, 6/19/67