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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT PLANS FOR NURSING CAREER

By ALLEN MINCEY Banner Correspondent
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For several years, the Military Appreciation Day baseball game at Lee University has not only honored local armed forces veterans, but also presented a scholarship to a student who has ties to the military. This year's recipient of the George R. "Bobby" Taylor Memorial Scholarship — Hannah Robbins — is a junior at Lee University, and the daughter of an Army veteran, and she will be recognized at this year's game on April 20 at the Olympic Field at Larry Carpenter Stadium. Coincidentally, she happened to have been born at a military base.

"My father was in the 101st Division of the Army, and he was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq," Robbins told the Cleveland Daily Banner. "I was actually born at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, because that's where my dad was stationed, when he was deployed, and that's where my mom and him were living." She said it "was a blessing" that her father got to return to the United States just after she was born, and he retired not long after her birth.

Many who receive the Bobby Taylor scholarship plan to go into the military, like their family member, but Robbins said that is not in her future. She said she would hope to work with children. "My plans currently are to finish nursing school," she said. "I really have a heart for working with kids and I've always loved working with kids."

She said she hopes to work with these children in a special field one might shy away from: oncology. Many would think working with children who might be experiencing diseases such as cancer, and their parents, would be disheartening, but not Robbins. "I would love to get to work in oncology somewhere maybe at a family practice or an outpatient center — I'm not really a big fan of the hospital," Robbins said. "That's not where I feel like I'm able to thrive. "I've been able to shadow in some oncology clinics and see some chemo treatment centers and I'm like, Oh my gosh, there's a whole new side of the healthcare profession that I could be a part of, and I just have found so much more hope in these patients." Robbins said she believes "being a nurse, and in the oncology field, is a true calling."

One of her Lee University instructors, Dr. Samantha Spinks, said Robbins is an excellent student, and will make an excellent nurse. "Her dedication and enthusiasm in the classroom are evident, and her compassionate demeanor and willingness to help others are qualities that will undoubtedly make her an outstanding nurse," Spinks said. "We are fortunate to have Hannah as a part of our program, and she truly is a blessing to us all."

The Bobby Taylor scholarship is given in memory of the former president of Bank of Cleveland, who served in World War II with the U.S. Army Air Corps, during the Korean Conflict, and with the 278th Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. Army National Guard.

Robbins welcomed the scholarship, though she admitted she is not a baseball fan. "A lot of those scholarships just don't ever have me in mind, I guess, so I was very excited when I heard about this scholarship because I was like, wow, that's a scholarship that's a little bit smaller of a pool that's more designed for people like me who are looking for money," she said. Robbins said this will help her as she completes her studies at Lee University, and thanked Bank of Cleveland and the Lee baseball team for this assistance. "I'm very blessed in that the Lord has just provided me with so many opportunities in my life to be where I am to be at Lee University," she said.

“And I'm very thankful that He's blessed me with this scholarship to be able to finish my education and to start my career very strong.”

The April 20 game will pit the Lee Flames and conference foe Delta State at around 12:15 p.m. The opening ceremony will begin at around noon. Proceeds from the game will go to the Disabled American Veterans Post 25 in Cleveland. More information on the game will be announced as the game nears.



HANNAH ROBBINS, center, is the recipient of this year's George R. "Bobby" Taylor Memorial Scholarship, given to a Lee University student who is either an armed forces service member or veteran, or has a family member in the military or is a veteran. It will be presented at the Military Appreciation Day on April 20 as the Flames baseball team takes on Delta State. With Robbins are Lee University head coach Mark Brew, left, and Scott Taylor of Bank of Cleveland and son of the scholarship's namesake.

Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY