

# Union County Military Family Support Group

## The Major General and Mrs. Oscar C. Decker, Jr. Community Service Scholarship

### 2023 Scholarship Application Cover Letter

#### Background Information

The Union County Military Family Support Group (UCMFSG) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c) (3) public charity and community service organization that aids and supports local, actively-serving military members and local military units of the United States Armed Forces ( regardless of Branch or Component); supports local veterans who have served since September 11, 2001; and supports their respective families.

The UCMFSG was founded in 2003 by Major General Oscar C. Decker, Jr., United States Army (Retired) and his wife, Ella Mae “Babe” Decker. With the Nation at war, there was a major activation of National Guard and Reserve personnel of all branches of the Armed Forces. Many within Union County were called-up either individually, or with their reserve/national guard unit. These sudden activations and deployments resulted in numerous military families throughout Union County not knowing who to turn to for help. Likewise, many local young men and women enlisted to serve in the military. Thus, General and Mrs. Decker saw a need for a local charitable organization to support not only the deployed service members, but also the families left behind.

Unfortunately, this wonderful, caring couple are no longer with us. General Decker died on September 20, 2019 at the age of 94, and Mrs. Decker passed away a year later on September 12, 2020. They were a dynamic team for 74 years. During his 40 years of continuous service in the United States Army, Oscar Decker’s career spanned three wars, during which he saw combat in WWII and in Vietnam. Oscar Decker rose in rank from Private to Major General having served as a Tank Commander and as the Commanding General of the Army’s Tank and Automotive Command. His beloved “Babe” was the consummate “Army Wife” supporting her husband and caring for soldiers and their families around the World, including Union County, Ohio.

Upon General Decker’s retirement from the Army in 1983, he and Babe moved to Marysville, Ohio. They quickly became known for their tireless, humble, selfless service for the benefit of their church, their community, and for those in need within Union County. They readily lent their talents to help local schools, civic projects, and the Ohio National Guard. They were also fervent about caring for soldiers, veterans, and their respective families. As for General Decker, in 2008 he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. On September 11, 2012, a new fire station on County Home Road was given his name in honor of his many deeds for Marysville. Mrs. Decker was known for many charitable works including making sure that every Troop Care Box had three dozen homemade cookies. Their contributions to Marysville and Union County are so numerous that the debt owed them can never be repaid. Without a doubt, **the Decker’s decades-long legacy of caring, giving, and community service is truly unparalleled and is the definition of “selfless service.”**

In an effort to honor General and Mrs. Decker, and to reward on-going acts of selfless service by local youth, the Union County Military Family Support Group is offering this scholarship. **Each year starting in 2021, the UCMFSG will select a high school senior, who has an outstanding record of selfless/community service, to be awarded the Major General and Mrs. Oscar C. Decker, Jr. Community Service Scholarship in the amount of: \$2,000 (determined annually).**

## **Scholarship Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for Major General and Mrs. Oscar C. Decker, Jr. Community Service Scholarship, an individual must fulfill the following requirements:

- a. Must be a resident of Union County,
- b. Must attend a formal high school within Union County,
- c. Must be a graduating senior with an acceptance to a college or university, and must have a goal of achieving a baccalaureate degree (BA or BS),
- d. Must have a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.0,
- e. Must personally write a letter explaining why they should be considered for this scholarship (submit with the application form),
- f. Must have demonstrated a high-level of selfless service/community service which has in some way directly benefitted their community (example: county, city/village, neighborhood, church, school, hospital, etc) (NOTE: The record of selfless/community service could be for a very significant event/activity, or for a significant period of time. Just belonging to a group/club is not enough to qualify for this scholarship. The applicant must prove a high-level of leadership and/or a high-level of personal involvement and/or personal accomplishment which benefitted others),
- g. Must provide the name and phone number of at least one adult who can verify the act (s) of selfless/community service (submitted in the application) (this person (s) cannot be a relative (s)),
- h. Must provide three (3) letters of recommendation from adults stating why the applicant should be considered for this scholarship (these letters should not come from relatives; however, they may come from persons verifying the selfless/community service, and/or from school officials).

## **Scholarship Application Process**

The UCMFSG Secretary will have the updated Scholarship Application Forms available beginning **October 1st** each year for the next annual scholarship cycle beginning in January of the following year. The UCMFSG Secretary will accept completed applications beginning **January 1st** of each calendar year. The deadline for submission of completed applications and supporting documentation is **March 31st**. Applications received after March 31st **will not** be considered; therefore, early preparation and submission is highly recommended.

Each year in March, the UCMFSG Chairman will designate the members of the Decker Scholarship Selection Board. Normally the Scholarship Selection Board will consist of the three (3) UCMFSG Trustees. The Scholarship Selection Board will convene in **April** to consider all completed applications received by March 31st. The Selection Board will conduct personal interviews as a part of the selection process.

Recommendations from the Scholarship Selection Board will be submitted to the UCMFSG Executive Committee no later than **April 30th**. Approval of scholarships will be made by the Executive Committee. Decisions made by the UCMFSG Executive Committee are final. Once notifications are made to all applicants, the Scholarship Check will be disbursed as soon as possible by the UCMFSG Treasurer. Efforts will be made to incorporate the awarding of the Decker Scholarships into local school scholarship assemblies/awards programs, if appropriate. However, Scholarship Checks will be issued no later than **May 31st**. The UCMFSG will inform the public through local news media and the UCMFSG website concerning the Decker Scholarship program, scholarship recipients, and scholarship amounts.

### **NOTES:**

1. This Cover Letter and the Decker Scholarship Application Form may also be downloaded from the UCMFSG website at [ucmfsg.com](http://ucmfsg.com).
2. For further information about the Decker Scholarship program, or for other assistance available through the UCMFSG, please contact the UCMFSG Secretary at **TEL: (937) 644-2674**, or at [bonnells.suffolks@gmail.com](mailto:bonnells.suffolks@gmail.com).
3. Send completed Scholarship Applications to: **Union County Military Family Support Group, ATTN: Decker Scholarship Selection Board, PO Box 1001, Marysville, Ohio 43040.**

*\*\*\*Scholarship Application Form attached\*\*\**