



# BTA Awards Patriot Pack Scholarships

In this space in the July issue of Office Technology I announced the winners of the 35 Business Technology Association (BTA) scholarships awarded for the 2025-26 school year, along with the sponsoring BTA member dealerships. This month I'm sharing "part two" of the announcement for this great dealer member benefit.



In the spring of 2024, the Patriot Pack (under the leadership of Mike Stramaglio) approached BTA expressing an interest in making the BTA Scholarship Foundation the benefactor of the group's annual motorcycle ride across portions of the United States, with a focus on charitable fundraising. There was a particular interest in providing scholarships to the sons and daughters of military veterans.

Ultimately, the Patriot Pack made the foundation its new charitable cause and created the Patriot Pack Scholarships, which are made possible through the foundation. These annual scholarships are awarded to office technology U.S. military veterans who are full-time employees at current BTA member dealerships or their children or grandchildren. The awards are determined by an independent, impartial evaluator outside of BTA who reviews the applications.

In September 2024, each stop along the Patriot Pack Ride raised funds for the scholarships. The group raised more than \$100,000, thanks to generous contributions from the following donors: AgentDealer; CIT; Cobb Technologies; DLL; Doyle Family Foundation/Dan Doyle; Edwards Business Systems/Virginia Business Systems; GreatAmerica Financial Services; Hytec; IBPI; Konica Minolta; Milner; Sharp; Systel Business Equipment; UBEO and Tom Walsh.

BTA and the Patriot Pack are very appreciative of these inaugural contributors to the Patriot Pack Scholarship Program.

With the funds raised, the Patriot Pack has awarded five scholarships to deserving students for the 2025-26 school year, totaling \$28,000. Congratulations to the Patriot Pack scholarship recipients and their sponsoring BTA member dealerships:

- Riley Austin, Atlantic Tomorrow's Office, New York, New York
- Kate Dushane, Repeat Business Systems, Albany, New York
- Hannah Hortman, Gray & Creech Inc., Greensboro, North Carolina
- Timothy Larkin III, Cobb Technologies Inc., Glen Allen, Virginia
- Courtney Schweizer, UBEO, San Antonio, Texas

The weeklong Patriot Pack Ride 2025 will kick off on Sept. 12, once again raising funds for this scholarship program. The Patriot Pack members will begin their journey at Flex Technology Group in Mesa, Arizona. They will finish the 1,515-mile ride on Sept. 19 at BTA member Pacific Office Automation in Beaverton, Oregon. They will make several stops along the way: The Commemorative Air Force Museum in Palm Springs, California; Huntington Beach, California, for a surfing lesson; BTA member Advanced Office and Toshiba America Business Solutions in Irvine, California; Konica Minolta Business Solutions in Anaheim, California; BTA member The Swenson Group in Livermore, California; and BTA member Smile Business Products in Sacramento, California. At each stop, the Patriot Pack will be accepting donations for future scholarships.

To learn more about Patriot Pack scholarships or make a contribution to the Patriot Pack Scholarship Fund, visit [www.bta.org/PatriotPackScholarships](http://www.bta.org/PatriotPackScholarships). ■

— Brent Hoskins

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### FLASHBACK



The association's magazine cover 42 years ago this month — the NOMDA Spokesman, August 1983.