**JOSEPH TOMSAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Joseph Tomsak’s granddaughter, Megan Tomsak, WA 2022 and her family are greatly honored to offer this scholarship to a Wyoming Area graduating senior in Joseph’s memory. 2022 is the inaugural year for this scholarship. Joseph Tomsak provided multiple examples of bravery, courage, and determination that may relate to students going through their senior year.

Joseph Tomsak was a resident of West Wyoming throughout his first 18 years of life, up until his graduation from West Wyoming High School in 1964 in which he then enlisted in the United States Navy. During these “glory days” as Joseph would call it, he would partake in several endearing actions such as witnessing combat in Vietnam as well as sailing underwater in a submarine for months. He ended up departing from active duty into a more civil role as Chief Yeoman in the reserves. It was then when he met his wife Margaret.

When Joseph and Margaret met it was true love at first sight. They lived together for over 40 years, and had three children in addition to many happy memories back in West Wyoming. When Margaret passed away in 2011, Joseph was quite literally heartbroken and was told he needed a heart transplant to live. Joe had to make a choice, and despite his wife not being there to support him, he continued to fight for more years with his family. In 2013, Joe ended underwent a full heart transplant just in time. It was truly a miracle that could not be completed without Joe’s unwavering faith and bravery.

Because of that successful heart transplant, Joe spent seven extra years in his hometown that he loved so much. During that time he enjoyed attending weekly mass at Saint Monica’s, eating lunch at the Avenue Diner, and attending Wyoming Area Football games. Everything he did was for the comfort of others, whether that was taking his garden’s surplus to his neighbors or playing old maid with his granddaughters.

A loving man was lost on January 27, 2022 due to infection, but his memory should not have to be lost as well. This monetary reward will be awarded to a senior that demonstrates similar qualities to Joe’s life: perseverance, unselfishness, and unfaltering hope for a better tomorrow.

**REQUIREMENTS:** A Wyoming Area senior Class 2023 intending to continue their education after high school at a trade or technical school, a community college, a 2 year college or a 4 year college or university.

1. All majors/programs will be considered
2. Special consideration will be given to West Wyoming Seniors 2023

**ESSAY:**In a solid essay of at least 500 words, select one of the following prompts. Indicate which prompt you have selected in the first sentence of your essay.

1. Tell us about a time in your life that you needed to be brave and how you overcame that obstacle.
2. Compare aspects of Joseph’s life with your life w/examples. If possible, provide a title for this essay.
3. How will being selected for this specific scholarship help you reach your educational and career goals.