

# PENNSYLVANIA HOMESCHOOLERS

A Statewide Network for Sharing Information about Home Education, Editors Howard and Susan Richman  
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## Homeschoolers Serving America

On September 11 many Americans sat in front of their television sets watching stunned as terrorists crashed passenger jets into the World Trade Center.

At least one Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency (PHAA) graduate, Dorien Casses (class of 1998) was there to see it in person. The daughter of Valerie and John Casses of Johnstown, she was working five blocks away from the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. She watched in horror with her own eyes as the twin towers collapsed.

Her office was closed for the next two weeks, but instead of staying home and watching television, she worked each day to see how she could help. Although she was not able to return to Manhattan because all the subways were closed, she was able to work on Staten Island rescuing some of the suddenly-homeless pets whose owners had perished in the World Trade Center.

All over the country there was an outpouring of help as people, including many homeschoolers, donated their time, their blood, and their money to help with the relief effort.

Meanwhile in Lancaster, another PHAA graduate, Seth Eckman (class of 1998) son of Francis and David Eckman of Stoystown, watched television as the drama unfolded. He had grown up in Somerset County just 3 miles from where determined passengers brought down the terrorist-con-

trolled plane near Somerset, but his attention was riveted upon the courageous firemen who went into the burning World Trade Center never to come back out. It brought back memories to him.

Until recently he had worked as an EMT in Somerset County. Once he got a call that there was smoke in a residence for the handicapped and elderly — it turned out just to

fire fighters or EMT's go into dangerous buildings.

There are many homeschool graduates across our state who are now working as EMT's or Fire Fighters. For example Andrew Koch (PHAA, class of 1998), son of Laurie and Alan Koch of Natrona Heights, is serving as a volunteer fire fighter in his community. As a 21 year old fire fighter he has helped out in various emergencies.

After the Attack on America, our nation turned with thankfulness and pride to the Americans serving in our military. Again and again throughout our history these young men have defeated evils in the world, from the Barbary Pirates of the 1800's to the Nazis and Communists of the 1900's. Now an evil and intolerant branch of Islam has declared war against America and the freedom and tolerance that we stand for.

Homeschool graduates in our military are ready, and at least one has already been deployed in the war effort. They would appreciate your prayers.

Several homeschool graduates are members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. They have their bags packed and are ready to be called to active duty. These include Stephen Dilworth (PHAA, class of 1999) son of Barbara and Mark Dilworth of Morgantown, John David Kaufman



Stephen Dilworth addresses press at Homeschool Excellence Day rally in Harrisburg Capitol Rotunda October 3 which honored homeschool graduates who are serving America. Speakers at the rally also included firefighter Andrew Koch, and David Beamer, the father of an Air Force Academy cadet.

be a small electrical fire in the attic, but when the EMT's were the first to arrive nobody knew how bad it was. Without thinking of the danger to themselves, Seth and another EMT went into the smoke-filled building and started bringing people out. Almost every day, somewhere in this country courageous

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(PHAA, class of 1999) son of Marjorie and Larry Kaufman of Clarks Summit, and Lawrence Paladin III (PHAA, class of 1996) son of Phyllis & Larry Paladin of Pittsburgh.



Janelle Kolva

Janelle Kolva (PHAA, class of 1999) daughter of Nancy and Stephen Kolva of Elizabethtown is now in her junior year at Messiah College. She is majoring in nursing after a long-time interest in this field which included volunteer work and work as a Nursing Assistant at a nursing home while she was still being homeschooled. During the summer after her junior year, she attended the Governor's School for Health Services. In July, she got word that she had indeed been accepted into the Navy Nursing Candidate Program. After she graduates from Messiah she will serve for 5 years as a Nurse in the Navy. She is bringing to her country's service the excellent skills and commitment to her field that she has spent her life time developing.



Nicholas Beamer

Nicholas Beamer (PHAA, class of 2000), son of Christine and David Beamer of Trumbauersville is in his second year at the Air Force Academy majoring in computer science. When his parents went to visit him at the Academy in Colorado, they found him devoting every available minute to his studies.

Greg Darling (PHAA, class of 1996), son of Jill and Pete Darling of Warren Center, joined Civil Air Patrol when he was twelve, and then went to Campbell University, a Christian College in North Carolina, with a full ROTC scholarship for his junior and senior years. In college he competed in the Ranger Challenge competition in which cadets compete with other colleges in physical training, marksmanship, weapons assembly, rope bridge construction, and a ten-kilometer road march. Greg was captain of the varsity team during his senior year. On July 28 he married another life-long homeschooled, Faith Roselle of Greene NY.

He is now a second Lieutenant and rifle platoon leader in the 10th Mountain Division of the United States Army which is normally stationed at Fort Drum, NY but, according to news reports, is currently on duty in or near Afghanistan.

1st Lieutenant Jeremy Preston was homeschooled for grades K through 12 and graduated from the Preston Homeschool in 1995. He then attended Cedarville College and was in the Army ROTC program for three years while at Cedarville. After graduating from college he went to Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he took his pilot's training and he is now an Apache Helicopter pilot for the United States Army with the 101st Airborne. He is stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he and his wife live on post.

Philip Preston was also homeschooled all the way through to his 1998 homeschool high school graduation, and after completing two years of college, he has now joined the Army Reserves. Philip is currently at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After he finishes boot camp and further training for combat engineering, Philip plans to return Cedarville University for his last two years of college. He will also be attached to the Combat Engineering Army Reserve Unit in Brookville, Pennsylvania. He has enlisted for a six year term.

Several homeschool grads are currently on active duty in the United States Marines including Christopher Cutlip (PHAA, class of 2001), son of John and Sue Cutlip of Nazareth and Christian Bertram (class of 1998) son of Walter and Mary Bertram of Grantham.



Justin Gross

Justin Gross (class of 1996) son of Jean and Steven Gross of Dover is a Third Class Petty Officer and aviation maintenance technician in the Coast Guard stationed in Miami, Florida.

Benjamin Dilworth (PHAA, class of 2001) son of Barbara and Mark Dilworth of Morgantown is a Navy Electrical Technician attending Nuclear Field School. His training will take another 18 months to 2 years and after that he will serve on a nuclear submarine. He is the first homeschooled student in the state of Penn-

sylvania to get into the navy's nuclear power program.



Lisa Marie Ogozaly

Lisa Marie Ogozaly (PHAA, class of 1998) daughter of Brigitte and Lou Armbruster of Coatesville is an Army MP stationed in Hawaii. At first she en-

listed in the reserves, but she has been on active duty for a year.

Seth Moore (PHAA, class of 2000) son of Susan and Edward Moore of Indiana is in the army reserves. He is on alert and could be called at any minute.

Brian DiYanni (PHAA, class of 2001) son of Kimberly and Matthew DiYanni of Coraopolis enlisted in the Navy and is now at boot camp. After he graduates he plans to go to nuclear school and then serve on a nuclear submarine.

Several homeschoolers are now attending college and also serving in the reserves. These include Mindy Hovan (PHAA, class of 2000) daughter of Sheryl and Steve Hovan of Rome PA who is in the Army Reserves and attending Mansfield University, Justin Keenan (PHAA, class of 1999) son of Elizabeth and James Keenan of Latrobe who is Lance Corporal and MP in the Marine Corps Reserves and attending Pitt, and Joshua Koch (PHAA, class of 1999) son of Shirley and Ken Koch of Allentown who is in the Marine Corps Reserve and attending Penn State. All three are on notice that they could be called into active duty at any time. If so they will drop their school work in the middle of the term in order to serve their country. Just a few years ago Joshua was one of those homeschoolers who gave a speech at Homeschool Excellence Day as one of the homeschoolers who had attained National Merit Semi-finalist status as a result of his strong academic ability. Last I heard he was on 24 hour notice, meaning that at any time he could be given a notice to report for active duty in 24 hours.

Excellence comes in many forms and excellence in character and readiness to serve others is one of the most important. These are homeschoolers serving America. They are part of an America that is doing what is needed whether it is donating time, donating money, donating blood, volunteering as an EMT, or serving in the military. They are answering the 9-11 call that history has delivered to America. 🌱