

June 14, 2024

Jaycie Byler

*Re: Remarkable American Scholarship Award*

Jayci Byler,

I am Mayor Leah Juarez, of the City of Mills, Wyoming. The city I manage and serve is situated directly next to Casper and our communities often collaborate in assisting each other with large events such as the CNFR. We are delighted that contestants visit our city while attending the events.

I was given the opportunity to read your essay submitted to the Bar HV Scholarship. I was resoundingly impressed with your statements and how you view your role as an American. So often individuals attribute patriotism and American rights as distant luxuries. Most other essays claimed a sense of pride on the Fourth of July or having family that served in the Armed Forces. Your essay, however, hit the topic out of the park. It is my firm belief, as I see it is yours, that in order to maintain the America we love and enjoy today we must be willing to actively participate in the community to defend it. Whether through volunteerism or political service, it is those local community sacrifices that shape the future and ensure our America remains the same. I was overwhelmingly impressed that you understand what it means to be an American down to the truest form of community involvement. This is exemplified throughout your essay, with such statements as the following:

*“Patriotism, to me, is more than just a fervent love for one’s country; it is a solemn commitment to uphold the ideals upon which America was founded. It entails a sense of duty towards one’s fellow citizens and a deep respect for the institutions that safeguard our freedoms. I recognize that with the principles of living in a democratic society come responsibilities, chief among them being an active engagement in the betterment of my community.”*

It is my honor to inform you that the City of Mills, in this, its first year of participation in the Bar HV Scholarship program, is presenting a scholarship to you. Because of your impactful essay I was compelled to get involved. I think it’s important to grow and assist individuals such as yourself as you are the future of our country. I look forward to the woman you will become after graduation and the impact you will have on your community. I’ve chosen to name the scholarship from words influenced by your essay.

Congratulations and best wishes to you Jaycie Byler, recipient of the Remarkable American Scholarship award.

Mayor Leah Juarez

City of Mills, Wyoming