

Edna Holden Biography

Edna Holden's philosophy on life was to give her very best at everything she did. She grew up in the Olympia area, but after marrying a Navy man the family left to travel the world. She and her family took up residence in Shanghai China, but when World War II loomed on the horizon the family boarded a cramped ship and made the journey home. She was known to share stories about the trip from China to the West coast on board ship with many of her friends and neighbors.

After the war she and her family took up life on what was originally the George Bush family homestead, just east of today's Olympia Airport. The family operated a meat packing and storage facility on 2nd avenue in Tumwater, near what is today the entrance to Michael T. Simmons Elementary School. Edna became very active in the Tumwater community. When her children were attending local schools she coordinated, with other parents, the organization of a ski club for students on Mt. Rainier near the Deschutes River. Edna was interested in preserving history for students and made a valiant attempt to get others interested in restoring and preserving the original Bush farmhouse. While ultimately the house had to be demolished to prevent the wandering and curious kids in the neighborhood, she did not let this deter her. She was the President of the Tumwater Historical Association from 1987 to 1990, during which time she helped raise funds for, and operate, the Henderson House as a Museum. In 1984 the museum received 14,000 visitors.

One thing Edna was most proud of, and gave her vigorous support to, was the formation of the Homesteader Program at Tumwater Middle School. She also participated in visitor tours for kids, at the Henderson House museum. Kids were able to see rotating exhibits like a Woman's History Room, School Room, and an early 1900's kitchen. This all required funding so Edna, with the help of others, had garage sales, Art on the Green, Style shows (with antique clothing), a gift shop at the museum, and "Museumfest". Edna also initiated a "Children's Historical Poster Contest" for students in the Tumwater School District.

In 1993 the Edna Holden Scholarship was started, and the first two recipients (John Lindar and Bernie Koontz) were recognized. The scholarship has continued in her honor for students who embrace history and are willing to always give their best at whatever task they take on.



**Tumwater Historical Association
PO Box 4315 Tumwater, WA 98501-0315**

The mission of the Tumwater Historical Association is to preserve and educate both adults and students about the Pioneer history and heritage of New Market and the surrounding area. Edna Holden was a distinguished member of our organization, and this scholarship is named in her honor. Please read the biographical sheet on Edna Holden for insight on the intent of this scholarship dedicated in her name.

This scholarship of \$600 is open to all graduating senior students from, both Black Hills High School and Tumwater High School, who plan to attend a two or four year college, university **or trade school**. Applications can be submitted electronically to Mr. Cooksey by e-mail robertcooksey078@gmail.com. If electronic media is not possible applications can be sent by snail mail to 5846 Alpine Dr. S.W. Olympia, WA. 98512, attention "Scholarship Committee". **Students should be aware this scholarship is different in that it can be used for expenses that are run through the student's school account at the school they are attending (ie: dorm fees, parking fees, meal plans, lab fees, etc.), not just for books and tuition.**

This year we are asking applicants to include a teacher recommendation/Letter of support with their applications. This can be from a teacher, pastor, counselor, coach, or a trusted non-related adult who knows the applicant. It will be sent separately, and directly to the committee.

All Applications should be submitted, or postmarked by Tuesday, April 30th, 2019.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION: Be sure to fill this section out carefully and make sure all personal information is complete and accurate.

Name: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____
(Address, city, state, zip code)

Current Home Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

II. ACADEMIC INFORMATION: (If you attended a middle school or high school outside of the Tumwater area please provide the name of the school and the city and state where it is located.)

High School Attending: _____

Middle School Attended: _____

Were you a homesteader? _____

Did you volunteer at any homesteader events after 8th grade? _____

College/University or trade school you plan to attend: _____

What vocation do you plan to pursue? _____

III. **ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS:** List one extracurricular, volunteer activity, community service experience, job, you have been involved in during high school. Provide a brief description of how this experience has helped you grow, affected you, or meant the most to you. (Attach an extra page if needed.)

Organization	Job/Position	Dates of Involvement
Description of Activities:		

IV. **ESSAY QUESTION:** Choose **one** of the topics listed below and respond to the question. Explain how this topic has affected you personally. Be sure that your response explains completely in your own words the answer. Your response is limited to 500-800 words. (Attach extra page)

- Describe an accomplishment outside of school you found challenging or fulfilling.
- Describe an academic issue/problem/challenge you encountered, and explain how you overcame it.
- Tell us about your personal family history (ie: someone in my family was...; came from...etc.) and what you feel is the most important thing from your family history that helped shape you?

If you have questions regarding this scholarship, you may contact Mr. Cooksey at the e-mail address provided.

Teacher Recommendation/Letter of Support

We solicit your Letter of Recommendation/Letter of Support to help fill in areas the student has not thought of, or might be hesitant to mention. Like many individuals, students might be reluctant to “toot their own horn”, or shed light on anything they have overcome. In so many situations, it is easier for someone they trust, or knows them well to do this.

We ask that you take a minute to answer the questions below, and then forward them to robertcooksey078@gmail.com. Thank you for taking the time to tell us about this student so we can provide the best selection possible to our scholarship committee.

Please include the following information in your recommendation/letter.

Students Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Your relationship to this student: _____

A contact number you can be reached at: _____
(If the committee has any questions.)

Please answer these questions to the best of your ability:

1. Is there anything about the particular student we should know about before making our decision?
2. What type of work ethic does this student have, and give an example to help us visualize this.
3. What type of environment does this student project around them, and how does it affect those around them? Are there any special circumstances this student is/has experiences during the time you have known him/her?