

NEWS LEADER

AMELIA ISLAND • FERNANDINA BEACH • YULEE • NASSAU COUNTY

US Constitution Scholarship Foundation awards \$65K

News-Leader

A record 80 graduates completed The University of US program during its 10th year. They were honored Monday night at the annual University of US Graduation Ceremony at Yulee High School.

US Constitution Scholarship Foundation Board Member and Nassau County Tax Collector John Drew welcomed the graduates, their families and other guests to YHS.

University of US Director Sharyl Wood and USCSF Board Member Donna Martin then congratulated the 2026 graduates, providing each with a \$100 award. Leadership Award winners, Jaiden Elmore and Cooper Hayes, each received a \$1,000 scholarship and then spoke to the guests



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fernandina Beach High School student Dominic Cortes received the Mr. and Mrs. Richard Armbrust 10,000 Scholarship.

about why they joined the program, what they learned in the program, and how this education will help them both in college and later in life.

SCHOLARSHIPS Continued on 8A

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from 1A

Wood and Judge Robert Foster, the new Dean of the University of US, presented the student winners with over \$65,000

in Scholarships and Awards granted by the US Constitution Scholarship Foundation. Included were \$35,000 in scholarships awarded to the five winners of this year's Essay Competition. This year's Essay Competition subject

was "Defining hate speech in regard to the First Amendment."

For the first time, the final nine essay competitors were required to present their essays and answer questions, which resulted in the five scholarship win-

ners being selected in order by the panel directed by Foster. There were two \$10,000 scholarship winners: McKenzie Roberts from Hilliard and Dominic Cortes from Fernandina Beach. There were three \$5,000

winners: Tristan Horton from Hilliard, Caitlin Terry from Fernandina Beach and Adalai Kwiatkowski (Home School).

The USCSF program has now provided more than \$400,000 in Scholarships and Awards to Nassau County

high school students during its 10-year history. Before USCSF's annual dinner, Nassau County School Superintendent Kathy Burns made the closing remarks, congratulating the winners and lauding the program's impact.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



From top to bottom: Hilliard's Mackenzie Roberts received the Stephen R. Braddock \$10,000 Scholarship; FBHS's Caitlin Terry received the Mr. and Mrs. Tom Henricks \$5,000 scholarship; Hilliard's Tristan Horton earned The Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Schroeder \$5,000 Scholarship; and West Nassau's Jaiden Elmore and FBHS's Cooper Hayes received the 2026 Leadership Scholarships; and home-schooler Adalai Kwiatkowski received the Honorable Robert M. Foster \$5,000 scholarship

The annual University of US Graduation Ceremony was held Monday at Yulee High School.