



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Five Edward J. Kiernan Memorial Scholars Selected for 2026!

Annually, the I.U.P.A. selects impressive students who demonstrate both academic excellence as well as the desire to pursue studies and careers within the law enforcement and labor fields in order to assist them with the costs of attending an academic institution. This year, some extremely noteworthy students were selected. Their academic interests included criminal law, forensics, cybersecurity, and criminal justice.

2026 Recipients:

- Michael Benjamin of Yonkers, New York
- Benjamin Carroll of Cicero, New York
- Kaitlyn Eckel of Sylvania, Ohio
- Emerson Toole of Vero Beach, Florida
- Madison Wilkins of Port Saint Lucie, Florida

The Edward J. Kiernan Memorial Scholarship was established in 1999 by Sam A. Cabral, I.U.P.A.'s International President, to honor Edward J. Kiernan, a New York City Police Officer and former I.U.P.A. President, in recognition of Eddie's long commitment to the improvement of law enforcement officers' and their families' lives. In order to qualify for a Kiernan scholarship, an applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of an affiliate of the I.U.P.A. The applicant must also be accepted at an accredited university or college in a course of study in law enforcement, labor relations, or a related field. He or she must submit a current transcript as well as their SAT/ACT scores and a letter of recommendation by an official from the applicant's school.

END

NOTE:

*Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. More information is available at www.iupa.org.*

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