



DOING  
THE MOST  
GOOD®

Nominate  
Your Hero  
Today

February 2021

Dear D.J.'s Hero Nominators and Nominees:

The Salvation Army is excited to accept nominations for the 2021 D.J.'s Hero Awards. These \$10,000 scholarships, awarded in loving memory of the late D.J. Sokol, recognize Nebraska high school seniors who exemplify perseverance and selflessness in facing unusual challenges, who are leaders in their communities and who seem destined for success.

This year, we are awarding fifteen \$10,000 scholarships.

- Ten D.J.'s Hero Scholarships
- One D.J.'s Hero Teresa Hunzeker Memorial Scholarship
- One D.J.'s Hero Diesing Family North High Scholarship
- One Creighton University Athletic Department Scholarship (selected by Creighton University leadership)
- Two D.J.'s Hero Salvation Army Scholarships

The scholarships will be presented at the D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon later this spring in Omaha. Attendance is strongly encouraged for all award winners and The Salvation Army will provide travel and housing stipends for those who need to travel. This year's keynote speaker is **Byron Pitts**, Emmy Award-winning journalist and co-anchor of ABC News' "Nightline." Pitts was named the National Association of Black Journalists Journalist of the Year in 2002. His 2009 memoir, "Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life's Challenges," chronicles how he overcame illiteracy and a stutter to become a nationally-celebrated journalist.

**D.J.'s Hero Awards nominations must be submitted electronically by Monday, March 8, 2021.** Please see the enclosed brochure for additional details about the nomination process. All information and forms can also be downloaded at [salarmyomaha.org](http://salarmyomaha.org).

Thank you so much for your help in identifying deserving students for the 2021 D.J.'s Hero Awards. Please don't hesitate to call 402-898-7669 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeff Beckman  
Executive Director of Development

The Salvation Army Western Divisional Headquarters  
10755 Burt Street • Omaha, NE 68114 • (402) 898-7700  
[SalArmyWestern.org](http://SalArmyWestern.org) • [SalArmyOmaha.org](http://SalArmyOmaha.org)

General Brian Peddle

Commissioner F. Bradford Bailey, *Territorial Commander*

Major Greg Thompson, *Divisional Commander*

"...THERE IS NO REWARD EQUAL TO THAT OF DOING THE MOST GOOD TO THE MOST PEOPLE IN THE MOST NEED." – EVANGELINE BOOTH



# D.J.'s Hero Awards 2021

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



D.J. SOKOL

### **The Salvation Army Is Now Accepting Nominations for the 2021 D.J.'s Hero Scholarship Awards.**

The D.J.'s Hero Scholarship Awards are named in memory of D.J. Sokol, who lost his battle with cancer in 1999 at age 18. D.J. is remembered for his passion for life, his engaging sense of humor and his selfless focus on family, friends and community. His legacy lives on in the scholarship recipients who demonstrate his resilience and generosity.

### **D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon Late-Spring 2021 Date to be announced | Omaha**

This year's keynote speaker is Byron Pitts, Emmy Award-winning journalist and co-anchor of ABC News' "Nightline." Pitts was named the National Association of Black Journalists Journalist of the Year in 2002. His 2009 memoir, "Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life's Challenges," chronicles how he overcame illiteracy and a stutter to become a nationally-celebrated journalist.

*Attendance at the luncheon is required for all award winners, who are also strongly encouraged to attend an introductory breakfast at 8:30 a.m. that day.*



**Dr. Ken & Annie Bird,  
D.J.'s Hero Awards 2021 Chairs**

### **D.J.'S HERO AWARDS PARTNERS**



A minimum of two **\$10,000 D.J.'s Hero Scholarships** will be funded by The Salvation Army.

### **ABOUT THE AWARDS**

Ten **\$10,000 D.J.'s Hero Scholarships** are underwritten by David and Peggy Sokol in loving memory of their son, D.J. The awards recognize Nebraska high school seniors who exemplify perseverance and selflessness and who are servant-leaders in their communities.

The **\$10,000 D.J.'s Hero Teresa Hunzeker Memorial Scholarship** recognizes a student who demonstrates perseverance and service to the community, and who plans to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering or math) studies in college. The scholarship honors the life of Teresa Hunzeker, who passed away in 2018.

The **\$10,000 D.J.'s Hero Diesing Family North High Scholarship** is underwritten by Terri and Jack Diesing and will be awarded to a senior at Omaha's North High School - Mrs. Diesing's alma mater.

The **\$10,000 D.J.'s Hero Creighton University Athletic Department Scholarship**, will award \$2,500 annually (up to four years) to a student attending Creighton University. Recipients will be selected by Creighton University and have an interest in an intercollegiate athletics-related field.

# NOMINATION GUIDELINES

## ELIGIBILITY

### For Nominee:

1. Must be enrolled as a senior at or affiliated with a Nebraska high school during the 2020-2021 academic year and be planning to attend college in the U.S. in fall 2021.
2. Agrees to attend D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon in Omaha (stipend for transportation and lodging will be provided to non-Omaha residents).
3. Must agree to work with a free TeamMates+ mentor during their undergraduate experience and participate in ongoing research about the impact of the scholarship.

### For Nominator:

1. Must be an adult (age 21 or older).
2. Must not be related to nominee.
3. Should have direct connection with nominee (e.g. teacher, counselor, coach, administrator, pastor, mentor, employer, leader of community organization).

Nominators may nominate more than one student.

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### Deadline: Monday, March 8, 2021

Scan nomination forms and support materials, and email as a PDF to [wstheroapp@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:wstheroapp@usc.salvationarmy.org) – no later than Monday, March 8, 2021.

Please call (402) 898-7669 with questions regarding material submission.

### Nomination Timeline

February 8 – Nomination materials mailed and available online at [salarmyomaha.org](http://salarmyomaha.org)

March 8 – Deadline for submission of all nomination materials  
Week of April 12 – Scholarship winners informed

TBA – D.J.'s Hero Scholarship Awards Luncheon in Omaha

### Additional Notes

- The Selection Committee may request additional information or input from nominator. If this happens, the nominator will agree to keep such contact confidential.
- The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

## NOMINATION PROCESS

### For Nominee:

1. Sign and have responsible adult sign Nomination Form.
2. Write Nominee Statement (12-pt. type, 250 words or fewer) addressing the following two questions:
  - a. What are your short- and long-range plans and goals?
  - b. How will being awarded a D.J.'s Hero Scholarship help you achieve these goals?

### For Nominator:

1. Complete and sign enclosed Nomination Form (forms can also be downloaded from [salarmyomaha.org](http://salarmyomaha.org))
2. Write Nominator Statement addressing the following five questions (12-pt. type, two single-spaced pages or fewer):
  - a. What adversity has the nominee overcome?
  - b. How has the nominee demonstrated a positive attitude, a commitment to others, leadership and/or service to his/her community?
  - c. What are the nominee's greatest achievements?
  - d. What school or community activities has the nominee participated in?
  - e. What is the nominee's financial need?
3. Submit Nomination Form, Nominee Statement and Nominator Statement.



## OUR MISSION

*The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.*



# D. J.'s Hero Awards 2021 NOMINATION FORM

This form is to be completed by the nominator, and must be signed by the nominator, the nominee and a responsible adult. **All materials must be received by email to [wstheroapp@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:wstheroapp@usc.salvationarmy.org) by Monday March 8, 2021.** Please retain a copy for your files.

## Nominee Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges applied/planning to apply to:

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Adult: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Nominator Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If nominee is planning on studying science, technology, engineering and/or math in college and wishes to be considered for the Teresa Hunzeker Memorial Scholarship, please provide the nominee's ACT or SAT score:

\_\_\_\_\_

Release Statement: *In submitting this nomination, the nominator and nominee agree that the information contained herein is accurate and truthful, and may be used for promotional purposes and in media. The Salvation Army will be sensitive to special considerations and will work with the nominee and nominator to preserve reasonable privacy.*

### Signatures

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Adult: \_\_\_\_\_