

Julie Hilliard, RN BSN
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Dear Scholarship Committee:

It is my honor and pleasure to write William Gustafson Jr. this letter of recommendation. It is with great enthusiasm I strongly support him for the Trib Total Media-Outstanding Young Citizen Scholarship.

I have known William since the day he was born but not as William Jr. but as “Billy.” From the time he was just an infant he was eager to learn and explore. When I think of Billy, I think of a true boy scout. Should one seek an individual who exemplifies the Scout’s Oath and Law they need to look no further than Billy. It has been over the past eighteen years he has worked not only in academics and scouting but in all aspects of his life to live up to these high standards. He has always put his duty to God and country first as well as his service to others as a priority. I was able to witness his courage to tend to his best friend who was suffering from a childhood cancer and his strength, compassion and unwavering dedication to his friend through his struggles. Billy was there through the good and the hard times and was a loyal and trustworthy friend until the very end. The magnitude of bravery this young man has shown through this life altering time is more than most grown men can handle. But it did not end here. His Eagle Scout project was a true dedication to his friend’s life and the honor of a life well lived – one he was an intricate part of.

Billy continues to exemplify many of the other twelve points of the Scout’s Law. When I reflect on the years of knowing Billy - loyalty and trustworthiness also come to top of mind. He has demonstrated loyalty to his family, his extended family and school. He is always available to lend a hand to others in need without the expectation of garnering anything in return. I believe he was raised and models through his actions that reward is not why he helps or does a good deed but the self-gratification of knowing he has made life easier for someone else is more than enough to him.

I could speak to all the amazing accomplishments, honors and feats this young man has achieved in his short life, but I would ask the selection committee look at “how” he achieved these things. It was with diligence, perseverance, and commitment to his goals. Even in times of failure and fear he found a way to take a negative and translate it into a positive. He follows the rules and encourages others to always look for the positive in each situation. It is with these examples I whole heartily support William “Billy” Gustafson Jr. for the Trib Total Media-Outstanding Young Citizen Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Julie Hilliard, RN BSN

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