

Evesham Township

LeRoy W. Homer Jr. Memorial Award

This award is named in honor of LeRoy W. Homer Jr., a citizen of Evesham township and a veteran of our armed forces who lost his life in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

LeRoy W. Homer Jr. was the First Officer on United Airlines Flight 93, which was hijacked by terrorists on that fateful day. Along with the other crew members and passengers, he bravely fought back against the hijackers saving countless lives by preventing the aircraft from reaching the alleged intended target in Washington, D.C.

Leroy was also a U.S. Air Force Pilot who served his country honorably in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. LeRoy's courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to duty are an example of a true Evesham hero and should always be remembered.

This essay contest encourages students to examine America's history and reflect on their own experiences. The student is asked to express their views, ideas and perspectives through an essay based on the heroic life and legacy of LeRoy W. Homer, Jr.

The essay theme is "Service Before Self"

Entrants should first answer this question. Why is service to others important in a community and country? Considering the qualities that made LeRoy W. Homer Jr. a hero, essays should also explain how they personally have shown selflessness, an unyielding commitment to the well-being of others, and personal excellence as indicated below:

- Demonstrating leadership skills in their school or community, such as organizing or leading a project or initiative that has had a positive impact on others.
- Exhibiting exceptional kindness and empathy towards others, including acts of kindness, volunteerism, or community service.
- Making a positive contribution to their school or community, such as through academic achievement, artistic or athletic excellence, or involvement in extracurricular activities.
- Demonstrating a commitment to safety, integrity, and ethical behavior in their school or community, including a dedication to standing up for what is right and just.

Award Rules and Eligibility

ESSAY CRITERIA

All essays should be typed with no color or graphics and 300-400 words in length. The essay submission must be the contestants own original work. The use of technology for research is allowed. **Use of ChatGPT or other Artificial Intelligence tools to write your essay are not allowed and will result in disqualification.**

WHO CAN ENTER

This year's award is open to all current 8th grade students enrolled at Marlton Middle School, DeMasi Middle School, and St. Joan of Arc in addition to all 12th grade Cherokee High School students.

HOW TO ENTER

Please submit your Leroy W. Homer, Jr. Award essay (Word or Google Docs attachment) via e-mail (SUBJECT: Homer Award Essay) to Mrs. Karen Maratea (marateak@evesham-nj.gov) no later than **4 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2026**. Any entries received after the deadline will not be considered. Please ensure your essay specifies your name and school along with the name of a parent or guardian and their contact information (phone and email). Contact Mrs. Maratea at 856-983-6395 with any questions.

AWARD SELECTION

Winners will be selected by representatives from the Evesham Disability & Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and will be announced on a future date. One eighth grade winner from each school, Marlton Middle School, DeMasi Middle School, St. Joan of Arc and one senior from Cherokee High School will each receive a \$250 cash award.

“The LeRoy W. Homer Jr. Memorial Award is a meaningful way to honor the memory of an Evesham resident who gave his life in service to others. We sincerely hope that this award will inspire others to follow in his footsteps and continue his legacy of courage, sacrifice, and excellence.”

- Evesham Disability & Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee