

# Capt. John “Bag” Hefti, USN, Memorial Scholarship



**Award: \$8,000**

**Due Date: May 8, 2026**

Captain John Hefti, USN, was a real-life superhero to all who knew him. A two-sport varsity athlete recruited as a quarterback to the U.S. Naval Academy, John excelled at everything he did and made it look easy. “Bag” was a TOPGUN graduate, a top-tier F-14 pilot, and a natural leader who earned profound respect and admiration throughout his 28 years of service in the Navy.

However, even with his impressive skills and accomplishments, Bag was best known for his deep humility, kindness, and selfless love. He did not boast of his talent but instead used his gifts to build others up. As a husband, father, friend, and coach, Bag modeled exemplary servant leadership with confidence that his strength rested not in his merit or skills, but in his commitment to loving and serving his family, community, and country. He was especially passionate about using the power of sports to build character, serving as a little league coach for six years and sitting on the board of Great Neck Baseball League where he made a profound impact on players, coaches, and families.

John’s family and friends are following his lead in building up future leaders by promoting the character qualities that made him such a role model and force for good in the world. We want to support student athletes on their journey to becoming difference-making servant leaders by offering three **\$8,000 scholarships** across our eligible schools.

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

If you are a student athlete who, like Bag Hefti, has a calling to use your gifts and talents to serve others, we encourage you to apply! We are looking for students who:

- Will graduate from one of our four eligible high schools in June 2026
- Will attend postsecondary school beginning Fall 2026
- Achieved academic success
- Enjoyed athletic involvement
- Demonstrate a passion for servant leadership
- Exhibit key “Bag Hefti qualities” of humility, kindness, and selflessness

## **How to Apply:**

Fill out the application below and submit the checklist items by **May 8, 2026**.

To learn more, visit <https://bagsbuddies.org>

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## Scholarship Application

Due Date: May 8, 2026

### Application Checklist

1. Write a **1-2 page essay** on what exemplary servant leadership looks like to you and how you hope to use your gifts to serve others.
2. Attach a **signed letter of recommendation** from a coach, mentor, boss, etc.
3. Download a copy of your **academic transcript**.
4. Complete this form by filling out the sections below.
5. Compile items #1-4 and submit to your scholarship coordinator / counselor

Finalists from each school will be selected for an interview.

*If you have any questions, please contact your scholarship coordinator, or email [scholarships@bagsbuddies.org](mailto:scholarships@bagsbuddies.org)*

### Applicant Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First* \_\_\_\_\_ *M.I* \_\_\_\_\_ *Last* \_\_\_\_\_

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

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

### Character Reference

*Please request a reference from a coach, mentor, supervisor, etc. who can speak to your character, gifts, and desire to build others up. Please provide their contact information below.*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Signature

I certify that my application is true and complete. I acknowledge that my listed character reference may be contacted during the selection process.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_