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Susannah Cole

### Tyler Brown Scholarship

As a vintage eagle of Woodward Academy, I have watched the campus evolve to include the Tyler Brown Student Center. Over the years I began to connect the name Tyler Brown with the honored veteran whose story I heard from numerous teachers and administrators. Tyler embodied the idea that David Brooks describes in his article “The Moral Bucket List.” David Brooks believes that there are people who exude an inner light. He attributes their light to the development of eulogy virtues over résumé virtues. He believes that people should focus more on the things that people will say about their character when they die, than what accolades they can put on a job application. While each story I have heard about Tyler has mentioned his impressive accomplishments, such as student body president, his reputation of being a positive light in the world, his magnetic personality, his moral strength, and his outstanding courage are the accolades people gravitate towards. Tyler lived his life so that his light was remembered even after he was gone. I believe I am worthy of the Tyler Brown scholarship because I am determined to live my life for accolades of character as Tyler did. I strive every day to be a better student, mentor, friend, and daughter. While I have many goals for my life and desire to find success, I am more focused on the person I will become rather than the career I will have. In 2015, on a visit to Arlington Cemetery, I decided to find the grave bearing the name which hangs above my school’s student lounge. As a photography student, I documented the visit with the photograph that I have shared along with this essay. At the time, I did not know why I visited the grave, but I now understand that it was because Tyler embodies the kind of person I want to be: someone whose legacy outlasts their physical body.