

Grade Level(s): 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Application Opens: February 1, 2024

Application Closes: March 27, 2024

### The Mary Regula Memorial Scholarship

**About:** This scholarship is offered in honor of the National First Ladies Library & Museum founder, Mary Regula.

Mary Regula had a varied career as a schoolteacher, Congressional spouse and mother of three children. She distinguished herself in service to her community and the nation through a dedication to education, her involvement in numerous volunteer activities, and personal leadership. It was through Mary's research on history and First Ladies that she discovered the educational void regarding information about First Ladies and other women who have contributed so much to our nation's history. Determined to make it easier for others to learn about these great historical figures, Mary assembled a board of 13 people to raise the funds and hire a historian to create a complete 40,000-entry bibliography on all first ladies from Martha Washington to the current First Lady.

**Essay Contest and Scholarship:** This \$1,000 scholarship is offered to a Stark County 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student whose essay best exemplifies the importance of telling history through the eyes of women. History is often recorded from men's perspectives, especially at the presidential level. Yet it was many of our nation's First Ladies who were active in diplomacy and acted as confidants, good-will ambassadors, and advocates; they were even present at world-changing events. Students should choose an important event in American history and reframe the event through the eyes of the First Lady of the United States.

In at least **500** words, students must answer the following question in an essay format:

*How would you reframe a significant historical event through the eyes of the First Lady of the United States rather than through the eyes of her husband, the President?*

**Contest Rules:** This essay/scholarship contest is open to any Stark County 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who plans to attend college in 2024-2025. Please provide your full name, email address, and school on all of your materials. Essays should be in Times New Roman 12pt. font, double spaced.

Only one entry per student. \*

**To apply:** Students applying for this essay contest and scholarship should send their application materials to the Director of Education & Outreach at the National First Ladies Library & Museum at [sbohnak@firstladies.org](mailto:sbohnak@firstladies.org). Contest closes at 5:00PM on March 27, 2024. If you would like to mail your essay to the National First Ladies Library & Museum, please do so at the following address by March 20, 2024:

National First Ladies Library & Museum

Attn: Stephanie Bohnak

205 Market Ave. South

Canton, OH 44702

**Award:** Essay contest winners will be awarded \$1,000 to use for their college education. Funds can be used to assist the student with books, class costs, supplies, and housing. Winners will be recognized/announced on April 27, 2024 at the National First Ladies Library & Museum's celebration of National First Ladies Day. Details to come.