



Joy of Giving

WHEN Tad Rowinski is not flying over hills in Alaska, you might find him studying to achieve even greater heights as a US fighter pilot. Tad is able to follow his dreams of becoming a fighter pilot because an Emergency Educational Grant (EEG) from the Elks National Foundation is paving the way to a college education for this Young Entrepreneur Award winner and committed Air Force ROTC student.

In 1997, a tragic car accident took Tad's father, Tom Rowinski, a member of the Fairbanks, Alaska, Lodge, from his wife, Dayna, and their son, who was then ten years old. Dayna was left to single-handedly raise Tad and pay for his education. But house payments, utility bills, and living expenses took up most of her income, leaving little to save for Tad's college education.

An Emergency Educational Grant from the ENF provided the funding Tad needed to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a pilot. By living up to rigorous and challenging goals he set for himself, Tad is well on his way to following his dream of flight.

Determined to Achieve Success

Tad, now a hardworking college sophomore, has always been a go-getter. "As far back as I can remember I have been an entrepreneur, with goals of financial success," recalls Tad.

Starting at age seven, Tad sold rocks to people for a dollar. Later, his ambition drove him to pursue his own landscaping business.

"I started by pushing my broken-down lawn mower around the neighborhood," says Tad. "When the business took off, my mother started chauffeuring me around to different neighborhoods."

Tad credits both of his parents for the person he has become. He believes he received his strength from his mother and his character from his father.



▲ Emergency Educational Grant recipient Tad Rowinski is shown on the airfield last summer during his participation in the Air Force's Professional Development Training program at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina.

"I have modeled my life after an inspiring leader, an exalted ruler, a caring teacher, and an amazing, loving father," he says.

At the University of Alaska, Anchorage, the sky is the limit for Tad, who is pursuing a degree in avionics, the study of aviation electronics. He is also enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program. Clearly, this education and experience will help Tad one day realize his goal of becoming a US fighter pilot.

Backed by the EEG, Tad intends to make the Elks proud. He says with determination, "I feel that I have the maturity and ambition to represent the Elks as an A-class citizen, just as my father did before me." ■

The Elks National Foundation Emergency Educational Grant Program provides financial assistance to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks who wish to obtain or further a college education. To learn more about the EEG program, please visit www.elks.org/enf/scholars/eefgrants.cfm.