

## **History of the Wellhofer/Wilinski Scholarship Foundation**

William G. Wellhofer of Atlantic City was a founder of the New Jersey Tavern Association, which later became the United Tavern Owners' Association of New Jersey and now operates as the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association (NJLBA).

At the association's state convention in 1944, members decided to establish a memorial honoring Mr. Wellhofer for his leadership and vision in founding the association to represent New Jersey's on-premise licensees. This tribute recognized the high esteem in which he was held by his community and the industry.

Because Mr. Wellhofer was a college graduate who strongly believed in higher education, the William G. Wellhofer Scholarship Foundation was created. Emmet Dugan, the first chairman, played a pivotal role in bringing the idea to fruition. Over the years, many dedicated chairpersons and members have continued this work, raising funds primarily through private and industry donations.

### **History of the Robert Wilinski Scholarship**

The Robert Wilinski Scholarship was established in 1991 as a memorial to Robert Wilinski, who passed away that April. Mr. Wilinski, an attorney, represented the NJLBA for over thirty years and was highly respected by both the association and its members. He joined the William T. Cahill law firm in 1951, eventually becoming a senior partner, and began attending NJLBA board meetings when Cahill was elected to Congress in 1958.

Mr. Wilinski also served as general counsel for the New Jersey Expressway Authority, operated the Atlantic City Expressway, and was a founder and original director of Fidelity Bank & Trust Company of NJ. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a gunnery instructor aboard B-29 airplanes.

After his passing, the scholarship was incorporated into the existing William G. Wellhofer Scholarship Foundation, which was then renamed the Wellhofer/Wilinski Scholarship Foundation. New guidelines were created for awarding the scholarship. Scholarships are reserved for the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of current dues-paying NJLBA members, as well as those of retired members who had paid dues for at least five years prior to retirement.

While there are limited eligibility requirements, applications are evaluated on a point system that considers cumulative grade average, class rank, extracurricular activities, and counselor recommendations. Winners are chosen from an anonymous list presented to the Wellhofer Committee.

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