



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shrake Presented Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award in Civil Air Patrol

AZLE, Tex. (July 6, 2021) – Emilou Shrake of the Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol (CAP), has been awarded the official cadet rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant, the Brigadier General Billy Mitchell Award. Cadet Shrake is a local homeschooled junior and scheduled to graduate in 2022.



Cadet Shrake joined CAP in October 2019 during her sophomore year of high school. Shrake steadily and diligently progressed through the ranks, keeping focused on her goal of fulfilling all the requirements to achieve the Mitchell Award and become a second lieutenant in CAP.

After graduation from high school, Shrake plans to join the Air Force and later on work for Lockheed Martin. When asked about her promotion, Shrake reflected, “I am humbled, but satisfied. The work was hard and I failed sometimes.” To encourage other cadets, Shrake added, “If you put in the effort, you will see self-growth and accomplishments. Don’t stop when it gets hard; push through the challenge. The reward is sweeter when you fight for it.” Shrake went on to say that she embraces the CAP core values enjoys the discipline and drill and is using what she learns in many areas of her life.

Captain Robert DuRall, Commander of the Azle squadron, shared that he is pleased to have Cadet Shrake remaining in the squadron. Many Mitchell Award recipients quickly graduate from high school and move on to college or other adventures. Having her remain with the unit shows we have cadets who thoroughly embrace the program and who are taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to them to become responsible leaders. He explained, “The Mitchell Award is a stepping-stone that allows a cadet to move from leading a small group to working with an organization. As the cadet continues to move up the officer ranks, they will be given more responsibility and opportunity to shape the squadron and higher echelons in CAP to continually improve the organization.”

Major Brian Kilian, Deputy Commander for Cadets of the Azle unit, reflected, “Cadet Shrake is a shining example of American youth. Despite obstacles brought about by COVID, she has achieved her Mitchell in minimal time, and is a respected leader in the squadron.”

Cadet Shrake’s mother, Julie Shrake, who also serves as a Senior Member in the Azle unit, reflected on the maturity and growth she has seen in her daughter, “She is a great example for the other cadets. I know how hard she worked and I am so proud of her. She has matured quite a bit and has learned to lead gently, but with self-assurance.”

The Gen. Billy Mitchell Award became part of CAP in 1964. The award honors the late Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, an aviation pioneer and advocate for military airpower. Only about 15% of CAP cadets earn this award. To earn this award, a cadet must complete not only the first eight achievements of the cadet program, but also pass an intensive examination of leadership theory and aerospace topics. In addition, to achieve this award, a cadet must also possess a positive attitude, be an encouragement to others, display the CAP Core Values, be proficient in informal speaking, be trustworthy in supervising and leading a team of cadets, and guide/coach junior cadets. This award is a noteworthy achievement that earns a recipient eligibility for a variety of scholarships and CAP special activities. The military also looks favorably on Mitchell Award recipients when evaluating AFROTC and Academy applicants and if they choose to enlist in the Air Force, they enter at the grade of E-3.

Along with receiving the Mitchell Award, Shrake was appointed the current Cadet Commander of the Azle Composite Squadron and is responsible for leading a group of 26 cadets in the unit. Going forward, Cadet Shrake is charged with leading a team of cadet NCOs and serving junior-ranking cadets in her squadron while continuing to develop into a dynamic American and aerospace leader.

Cadet Shrake is the third cadet of the Azle Composite Squadron to earn the Billy Mitchell Award in recent years. She was preceded in this endeavor by now former Cadet Joshua Kilian, Mitchell recipient May 2019 who served as Cadet Commander of the unit until his graduation in June 2020. Kilian is beginning his second year at Tarleton State University majoring in Criminal Justice, is part of the Corp of Cadets, and Army ROTC.

Shrake is replacing now former Cadet Jacob Holz, Mitchell recipient December 2020. Cadet Holz joined CAP in April 2019 who recently graduated from high school and is heading to University of Texas and potentially the Air Force at a later time. When asked about his promotion and tenure as Cadet Commander, Holz said, “I just kept working through the requirements and stayed focused. I have learned a lot through the cadet program that I can use in whatever career path I choose. The biggest challenge I had to overcome was to inspire and lead the cadets when virtual meetings became a requirement. School and many other activities were online and people just missed the face to face interaction.”

Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine Cessna aircraft and more than 2,000 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of all search and rescue operations within the contiguous United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Often using innovative cellphone forensics and radar analysis software, CAP was credited by the AFRCC with saving 130 lives during the past fiscal year. CAP’s 54,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. As a nonprofit organization, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace education using national academic standards-based STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. Members also serve as mentors to over 20,000 young people participating in CAP’s Cadet Programs

Visit azle.cap.gov or www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com for more information.

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