

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation

The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation takes great pleasure in presenting the 2025 Robert Yablonski Esprit Award to:

JOHN “JAY” ROWLEY, Olmsted Scholar Class of 2020, Jerusalem, Israel.

Named for Robert Yablonski, Olmsted Scholar Class of 1980, Lyon, France, who served as the Foundation's Executive Vice President from 2000 to 2008 and also on the Foundation's Board of Directors from 2001 to 2008, this award honors the significant and ongoing contributions Jay has made to the Foundation and the Olmsted Scholar Program. Just as Bob Yablonski continuously displayed great enthusiasm, unparalleled initiative, continuous dedication, an infectious positive attitude, and matchless patriotism in all his military assignments and duties, as well as his dealings with the Olmsted Foundation, so too has Jay Rowley.

Like so many Scholars before him, Jay is the epitome of the “warrior-scholar” and the embodiment of General Olmsted's vision. However, what distinguishes Jay is the immediate and tangible impact his experience as a Scholar in Jerusalem has had on US military operations. Fluent in Arabic and Hebrew and deeply versed in Middle Eastern history, Jay was hand-selected to serve as Operations Officer for a Central Command Joint Task Force stood up in response to the Hamas attack on Israel in October 2023. His insights and leadership, shaped by his time as a Scholar, were instrumental to the task force's success and led to the Jewish Institute for National Security of America naming Jay as a recipient of the 2024 Major General Sidney Shachnow Grateful Nation Award.

Jay's contributions to the military and to the Olmsted Foundation extend well beyond his service to the Joint Task Force. His professionalism and enthusiasm continue to inspire junior officers and fellow Scholars alike. Through mentorship, public speaking, and published work, Jay has become a powerful advocate for the Olmsted Scholar Program, reinforcing its value and relevance for future military leaders.

In recognition of his exemplary and enduring contributions to The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation, the Olmsted Scholar Program, our armed forces, and our nation, the Board of Directors is pleased to recognize JOHN “JAY” ROWLEY as the 2025 recipient of the Robert Yablonski Esprit Award. Congratulations!

James G. Foggo III
Chairman
Board of Directors

Bruce K. Scott
President and CEO