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Class of 2020 El Paso Strong Scholarship

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We are El Paso Strong

El Paso Strong means our unique borderland mentality. Never has our strength as a community been tested like it was on August 3rd, 2019. That day will forever be in the minds of not only El Pasoans but all Americans as well. Our usual peaceful city was attacked by an outsider that traveled many miles to kill people of Mexican descent. This hate crime made national news and put us on the spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

I still remember this day clearly. It was a normal Saturday morning in the Sun City. I woke up and put my San Elizario “Eagle” cheerleading uniform on to participate in two community service events. I am proud to say that on the morning of August 3rd I was in my San Elizario community participating in the first annual Deputy Herrera Memorial Walk. This event was put together in honor of fallen Sheriff Peter Herrera who was murdered in March of 2019. I stood in my uniform and handed out blue balloons to the participants for the balloon lift off. It was a joy to watch people pass by honoring Deputy Herrera. Shortly after that event ended, I made my way to my high school. Our volleyball team was just getting their season underway. I came into the gym and began to cheer the team on. When I finally got a break I noticed I had

several missed calls from my mother. I was extremely alarmed because it was obvious that something was wrong.

She quickly filled me in on the mass shooting that had just occurred at a Walmart that we often frequent. Needless to say, I was stunned and horrified. Moments later my cellphone went off again with the emergency orders for all residents to shelter in place. I got into my vehicle and drove straight home.

El Paso strong means that no matter what tragedies come our way, we will always be united. During those difficult times, our community came together like never before. People found many ways to honor the victims and show strength. Although the event was tragic, we came out of it El Paso Strong.

I will be entering college this fall at the University of Texas at El Paso. I plan to major in business management. My degree will enrich my passion for working with others. I plan to focus on fundraising and marketing. It will be such a great privilege to join a corporation that loves El Paso as much as I do. My skills will be put to good use for the better of El Pasoans. I especially want to raise money for organizations like the YWCA, Boys and Girls Clubs of El Paso and other non- profits. These institutions are crucial to the social and economic activity of El Paso. While at UTEP, I plan to join student government and network with likeminded people.

I have always loved my city. We have the best food, weather, and diverse culture. As I begin my journey as an adult, I will keep my goal, to give back to my community, at the forefront of everything I do. Through my fundraising efforts I hope to support those organizations that make a difference in our community especially the El Pasoans Fighting

Hunger. I have already volunteered many hours to their program. It feels incredibly satisfying when you know you are doing the right thing. El Paso Strong is more than just a slogan or hashtag. For me, it is a way of life. It represents family and history. My roots began in El Paso and I intend to stay here and blossom in my hometown.

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