Matthew Ryan Powers “March On For Matt” Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Ryan Powers was born in January 2003. Matthew always had an affinity for music, his love of music is one of the things that defined him and made him into the person that meant so much to so many. Every time he touched a new instrument his excitement in music grew and his natural gift shined brighter.

Matthew entered Lakewood Ranch High School in 2017, joining the band and becoming a Marching Mustang. Marching band immediately became his favorite activity. For several years he attended summer music camps at Florida State University, making more friends, among both faculty and students, and continuing to improve his sound. Matthew’s life dream was to attend Florida State University’s College of Music and become a High School Music Director.

Matthew was killed in an automobile accident alongside his friend Chase Coyner in September 2018, on their way to the Lakewood Ranch High School Homecoming Dance. In the days and weeks following his death, the Marching Mustangs took up the rallying cry of “March On For Matt!”, which spread through the community and through the hearts of the people Matt touched.

The “March On For Matt” Memorial Scholarship was established in 2020 as a way to both honor Matthew’s memory and his “Band Family”. He loved being around, working with, and playing music with his “Band Family” and would have wanted nothing more than to help them achieve their educational goals.

Recipients