

Harold L. Silas & Reginald Ardis Sr.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP NAACP LAKELAND BRANCH



Mr. Harold Silas, a lifelong Lakeland resident and NAACP member, served as the first Vice President of its Lakeland branch. A graduate of Rochelle High School and Knoxville College, he was a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and retired as a Major in the U.S. Army. He later worked 19 years with the Lakeland Police Department's Victim Assistance Program, helping many overcome drug abuse. Mr. Silas passed away in 2014.



Reginald L. Ardis, Sr. was a lifelong resident of Lakeland and past president of the Lakeland Branch of the NAACP. Ardis graduated in 1967 from Rochelle High School, then from Florida Southern College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.

He was an athlete and Florida Sports fanatic. For 25 years, he worked as a manager for Sears Roebuck and Company. In 1995, he opened Ardis Limited, Inc., a real estate and mortgage company. The company focused on helping citizens who had been denied homeownership through traditional routes. Helping his Lakeland Community was his passion and legacy. Mr. Ardis passed away in June 2024 after a seven-year battle with cancer.

APPLICATION PROCESS



Write Your Essay

Draft a 500-word essay (legible 12-pt font, conventional grammar/spelling) responding to the following prompt:

- How can young adults support the NAACP Mission to ensure equal rights for all people, regardless of race, and to eliminate discrimination? Include your personal experiences in supporting this mission.



Apply Online

Through our web form at naacplakelandbranch.simplero.com/scholarship, **submit BY MARCH 7:**

- Your name, date of birth, home address
- Name of your high school, name of your college or university, and indicate whether you are entering or continuing college (Group 1 or Group 2 for this award)
- Proof of acceptance and enrollment to a college
- Current Cap & Gown or professional headshot jpeg photo

Award Details

- Enrollees in post-secondary technical or trade schools ARE eligible to apply.
- Awardees must have a Lakeland home address and/or have graduated from a high school in Lakeland.
- Winners will be announced at the April 2025 NAACP Lakeland Branch General Membership Meeting.
- 1st Prize \$1500, 2nd Prize \$1000 for each of two groups
 - Group 1 - Incoming Freshmen (2025 High School Graduate of a school in Lakeland, FL)
 - Group 2 - Currently enrolled students (Incoming college Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or beyond)

CONTACT US



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NAACP.
Lakeland Branch