

For Immediate Release: **Writing Contest Honors Founder**

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For More Information:

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(ZANESVILLE)

The Mary Helen Straker Award in Writing, open to high school juniors in Muskingum County, honors one of the founders of the J.W. & M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation. The competition is open to high school juniors in Muskingum County; students will submit essays through their schools.

Mary Helen Straker published several books, including *The Hills of Home: Five Generations of a Pioneer Ohio Family*, and her memoir, *Looking Back*. She wrote essays and articles that were published locally and nationally, and she maintained a journal as part of her personal writing discipline. Mrs. Straker was an avid reader, as well, and it was her wish that the foundation that bears her name support literacy efforts at all levels.

The writing and submission period for the Award extends through February 25. Up to three students from each high school in the County will earn \$500.00 cash awards for their essays. A grand prize winner selected from the school winners will receive \$2,000.00 and be announced at a ceremony at Zane State College on March 24.

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About the J.W. and M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation

J. William and Mary Helen Straker launched the J.W. and M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation in 1994. Ten descendants of J. William and Mary Helen Straker serve as its Board of Trustees. The trustees are committed to using J.W. and M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation funds to support the kinds of projects the Strakers care about: programs that foster community growth, enable young people to grow in character and integrity, enhance education, or increase community exposure to the arts and sciences.

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