

BIOGRAPHY OF EFFE MIA MARIA COBURN

Effe Mia Maria Coburn, 18, has lived in Tarpon Springs all her life. She recently graduated from Tarpon Springs High School Class of 2009. She is now a Freshman at St. Petersburg College interested in pursuing a career in nursing or pharmacy. Growing up, she attended St. Nicholas Greek School and St. Nicholas Sunday School and was a choir member. Her parents are Kyle and Mary Coburn. She has a brother, Henry Coburn, 16, who is diving for the cross for the first time this year. Effe Mia's grandparents are Harry and Effe Klimis, also of Tarpon Springs, and the late Henry and Alba Jean Coburn, of Cedar Key and Gainesville, Florida. Her grandfather, Harry Klimis, 82 is a long-time resident of Tarpon Springs, whose family were among the original spongers who emigrated here. Effe Mia's great-grandfather, Emmanuel Klimis, came to the United States in 1910 at the age of 10, from the island of Kalymnos, Greece, and worked with his brother, Michael, as spongers. He worked and purchased his own sponge boat, the "Anthoula" and later the "Leonidas" and was among those who tithed a share of each sponge fishing trip and made the building of St. Nicholas Cathedral possible.

" I consider it a Blessing and an Honor to be the Dove Bearer. St. Nicholas Cathedral has always been a part of my life. My parents were married there; I was baptized there and have grown up in the church, so it's very nice being able to play a role in such a beautiful event. Having my brother diving for the Cross makes it even more special. I am also very grateful that I am fortunate enough to share this day with my Yiayia and Papou." said Effe Mia. "I joined the junior choir at St. Nicholas when I was eight. I had always hoped that one day I would get to do what I am about to do. I have grown up with several past Dove Bearers and I will be counting on their guidance on Epiphany Day."