



# Thanking America's Troops and Their Families with the Gift of Education

August 2017

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KENS5 San Antonio

**Rudy's Raises Money for Military Families**

Thank you to Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar-B-Q for your support!



### Tennis Thanks the Troops

Congratulations to our 2017 US Open Tennis grand prize winners -- **San Diego District Tennis Association and Balboa Tennis Club** -- for raising the most money as part of our Tennis Thanks the Troops campaign. They hosted their 17th Annual Tennis Fest on May 21 and raised funds for ThanksUSA with a silent auction.

They have chosen to donate the trip to Isaac Cortes, a wounded veteran of the Army, Air Force and Navy who has found healing in the game of tennis.

[Read more about Isaac here.](#)



### ThanksUSA National Spokesperson Stephen Curry

Congratulations to ThanksUSA National Spokesperson Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors on their NBA Finals win earlier this summer!

We also applaud Stephen on the signing of a five-year extension with the Warriors!



### Upcoming Events

**OCTOBER 25, 2017**

**Treasure Our Troops Gala**  
Four Seasons Hotel (DC)

[Sponsorship Benefit Package](#)  
[Gala Fact Sheet](#)



View ThanksUSA listing in CNBC's "Top 10 Charities That Support Veterans"

[DONATE NOW](#)

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Greetings!

We are heading into the final weeks of summer and we can't believe how much has already happened here at ThanksUSA in 2017!

The highlight of the summer has been the amazing support from our donors in response to **The Kovner Foundation \$400,000 Challenge Grant**. We were able to raise \$314,445, which was automatically doubled through the grant, bringing our total to \$628,890 raised in support of military families. In fact, the campaign was so successful, The Kovner Foundation issued a second \$400,000 challenge that extends through June 30, 2018.

Please [click here](#) to help us get off to a strong start for the second Challenge Grant.



### ThanksUSA Scholar Spotlight

Congratulations 2017 graduate **Eric Hitt**! An Air Force dependent and 2015 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholar, Eric graduated from the University of Nebraska: Lincoln with a Bachelor of Music - Double Bass Performance. Eric looks forward to continuing his education at the University of North Texas where he will pursue a Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies.



Eric Hitt



Carin Papendorp and her brother Jack

Congratulations 2017 graduate **Carin Papendorp**! The daughter of an Army Reservist, Carin was the recipient of a Bruce & Suzie Kovner/ThanksUSA scholarship in 2014. This May, Carin graduated from Brown University with Honors in Neuroscience.

A member of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honors Society, Carin co-authored a paper that was published in the neuroscience journal *eNeuro*. She will begin graduate studies at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University this August.

Read more about ThanksUSA scholars on our [Scholarship Blog](#).

### Jackson Casey Memorial Golf Tournament

The 6th Annual Jackson Casey Memorial Golf Tournament took place at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Virginia on June 26. Friends and family gathered on a beautiful day to celebrate the life of Jackson Casey, and raise money for ThanksUSA's military family scholarship program. This year's tournament was made special by the support and participation of Pro Golfer **Scott Piercy**, who met with ThanksUSA scholar **Zoe Jones** and joined golfers out on the course.

Zoe Jones, the daughter of a Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel in the United States Air Force, spoke at the reception about her dreams for the future and how a \$3,000 Jackson Casey Fund/ThanksUSA scholarship is helping her achieve them. Zoe said, "The way Jackson lived his life is embodied in the very reason I am up here today. The only way Jackson Casey scholars can truly honor his legacy is by giving back and succeeding and by using the opportunity you gave us to become better human beings and become contributing members of society."

Through The Kovner Foundation Challenge Grant, ThanksUSA received a match of \$61,000 for Jackson Casey funds raised June 26-30. As a result of the total funds raised this year, we will be able to award another 75 scholarships to military children! Over the past six years, the Jackson Casey Fund has raised more than one million dollars to benefit the mission of ThanksUSA, while awarding a total of 256 scholarships in Jackson's name.



L-R: General George W. Casey, Jr., USA (Ret); Win Sheridan; ThanksUSA Scholar Zoe Jones; Scott Piercy; and Bob Okun at the 2017 Jackson Casey Memorial Golf Tournament

### Heartland 4 Heroes Golf Tournament

The 5th Annual Heartland 4 Heroes Golf Tournament took place on July 25, raising funds for 13 scholarships benefiting spouses and children of those serving in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and other Heartland States. Special thanks to **Red Cloud Food Services** and all the sponsors and golfers who support this event in Brentwood, Tennessee.

**Mariah Smith**, a Heartland 4 Heroes/ThanksUSA scholar and freshman at the University of Tennessee, received a check from the founders of the tournament Bob and Felicia Harrison (pictured below). Mariah was accepted into the school's prestigious Honors Program, and she intends to pursue a curriculum that will prepare her for medical school.

Mariah said, "Thank you for this opportunity. I am excited to represent the Heartland 4 Heroes/ThanksUSA scholarship, and thank you for lessening the financial burden of my college education."

