

**Thanks USA!**

Last night we also went to the **Treasure Our Troops Gala** in the **Newseum**. We snapped Sen **John McCain** (who was honored along with pal Sen. Joe Lieberman) surrounded by NC National Guard's **Chad Snyder**, Americas Commercial Group prez **Russ Owen** and his wife **Laurie**, and by Rep. **Howard Coble** and Rep. **Joe Wilson**.



The gala was for **ThanksUSA**, co-founded by **Rachel Okun** when she was 10 and her sister to help members of our military and their families get an education. We caught her practicing **God Bless America** with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff **Martin Dempsey**.



The organization has given **2,500 scholarships** since it was founded but is only able to fill a portion of the requests they receive; the gala is critical to giving out more. Proud dad, ThanksUSA Board chair and NBC VP **Bob Okun** is with emcee Fox's **Brett Baier**.



The dinner had wild striped bass with sautéed zucchini. Here, Rear Adm. **Rick Buchanan** and his wife **Amy** with Adm. **Thad Allen**.



Rep. **Bill Posey** and his wife **Katie** enjoyed the terrace.

**BISNOW**

**TFAS!**



**Last night** we also went to the **Four Seasons** to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of **The Fund for American Studies**. We snapped one of its directors, **Hicks Winters**, long-time board member Brownstein Hyatt's **Juanita Duggan**, and the night's honoree, Senator **Lamar Alexander**. He urged students at the dinner to pick someone they admire, volunteer for them, and **do anything they ask that's legal**.