



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

April 2017

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April 1 marked the arrival of this year's ThanksUSA scholarship application season. United States Military spouses and dependent children may apply before May 15 to be considered for a \$3,000 ThanksUSA scholarship for the 2017-18 academic year.

This year, **Kaplan University** is offering three special scholarship opportunities to honor the commitment and sacrifice made by military families. These will include five full-tuition scholarships for students in public service, STEM, and other fields to be determined; five full-tuition and five partial-tuition RN to BSN scholarships; and five full-tuition and five partial-tuition Associate's to Bachelor's degree scholarships. For complete details, click [here](#).

Double Down on Your Gift to Military Families

Did you know that ThanksUSA receives more than **2,000 applications** each year and is able to meet just over **10 percent** of the demand?

With your help, ThanksUSA has a unique opportunity to grow as an organization and expand its support of military families. Through a challenge grant issued by **The Kovner Foundation**, contributions made to ThanksUSA between now and June 30, 2017, will be matched dollar for dollar -- up to a total of \$400,000.

If you are interested in taking part in The Kovner Foundation Challenge Grant -- knowing that every dollar you donate will be doubled! -- please [donate here](#).

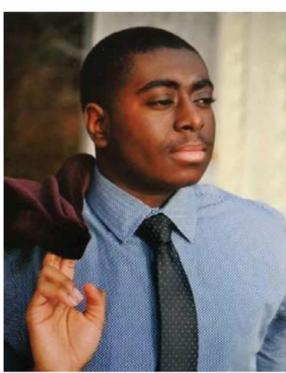
"Thank you so much for your contribution to ThanksUSA. With the help of this scholarship, I have been able to reduce financial stress and focus more on academic and career development. Being able to commit more time towards success is priceless."

--Marine Corps dependent Sandra Amadi



ThanksUSA Scholar Spotlight

Navy dependent **Thaddaeus Bacon** was awarded a \$3,000 Pershing Square Foundation/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue Business Finance studies at Texas A&M University. With plans to pursue a graduate degree, Thaddaeus has added International Business certification studies that require studies-abroad in at least three foreign countries. He considered a career in the U.S. Navy but has decided to focus on business sustainability and programs for veterans and their dependents, ultimately planning to establish a non-profit to teach fiscal responsibility.



Thaddaeus Bacon



Megan Cancel

A \$3,000 John (NMN) Coffey/ThanksUSA scholarship is helping **Megan Cancel** continue Nursing studies at Excelsior College. The spouse of an active-duty Airman stationed in Guam, Megan works as a Registered Nurse contractor at the U.S. Naval Hospital's Family Medicine Clinic while pursuing her BSN.

She says, "It has been a challenge being newly married and living so far away from home in New York. While both my husband and myself are blessed to have jobs, the cost of living in Guam is very high. This scholarship has made a huge difference in my ability to afford school."

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

Pathways for Patriots Reception

On March 7, ThanksUSA held a reception on Capitol Hill in honor of military families and a new initiative called [Pathways for Patriots](#). The reception was hosted by the Honorable Michael McCaul in conjunction with the High Tech and Military Family Caucuses, and was attended by ThanksUSA scholars and their families, Members of Congress, and military leaders. Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters, especially **Lockheed Martin** and **Kaplan University**, for attending the event and continuing to support this important initiative.

One of the highlights of the evening came when Congressman Scott Taylor (R-VA 2nd District) introduced an impressive scholar from one of his districts -- Natalie Ebreo of Virginia Beach. Natalie is a mechanical engineering student at Virginia Tech, and the daughter of a retired Navy Chief. Her father, Nato Ebreo, emigrated from the Philippines to the U.S. when he was 19 years old and immediately joined the U.S. Navy. Natalie credits her father for inspiring her major and has acquired a taste for a career in military aviation after an internship with GE Aviation.

ThanksUSA looks forward to continuing to partner with corporations and Congress to create a talent pipeline for outstanding scholars like Natalie as they continue to prepare for promising careers. Click [here](#) to view event photos.



Michael McCaul (R-Texas), chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security (center), with ThanksUSA scholars Charlotte Orren, David Jeselson, Ashton Jeney, and Natalie Ebreo

ThanksUSA Veterans Adaptive Tennis Clinics

On February 10, Tennis Thanks the Troops kicked off its weekly Veterans Adaptive Tennis Clinic at East Potomac Tennis Center in Washington, DC. Led by **Brenda Gilmore**, PTR Adaptive Tennis Certified and 2015 PTR Maryland Member of the Year, the clinic aims to provide a sport that can serve as rehabilitation, as well as a healthy and fun way to stay active and socialize. Thanks to generous donations from the **USPTA Foundation** and **USTA Foundation**, ThanksUSA plans to run the clinic every week through the end of the year.

After two months, the development of each player has been astonishing. Not only are they improving their skills, but their passion for the game is growing as well. But perhaps the most rewarding part of the clinic is getting to hear their stories -- how one woman voluntarily joined the Navy during the Vietnam War when being a woman in the military was difficult, or how one man is using his time to travel the world.

Brenda says: **"It's been quite rewarding for me to see not only the progress of the participants but to see how they enjoy each other's company as much as they do learning to play tennis. I think this is truly one of the highlights of their week!"**

And it is most certainly one of the highlights of ThanksUSA's week as well! See photos [here](#).



Brenda Gilmore, Orlando Hollis, Carol Janssens, Lucile Lisle, Loryne Joyce Jr., Bowen, Kenneth Best, Gwen "Breezy" Gilbert, Henry Ford, Charles Johnson Jr., Collier Rice, Blanca Davila-Beezon (standing in grey shirt), Colleen Virzir (kneeling in grey shirt), Cathy Davis

ThanksUSA Charity Tennis Pro-Am

The third annual Charity Tennis Pro-Am took place at Trump National Golf Club on February 2-3. The event included a pro exhibition, player reception, women's and men's doubles tournaments, and a raffle and silent auction. Over the past three years, the event has raised funds for 19 scholarships for military spouses and children.

Luncheon speaker and ThanksUSA scholarship recipient **James Green** shared how much a \$3,000 ThanksUSA scholarship can mean to a military family struggling to afford tuition. James is now close to graduation and has landed his dream job with the State Department.

Our other two scholars in attendance, **Andrea Barreiro** and **Stephanie Moore-Brewer**, shared common challenges that military spouses face trying to advance their education and maintain careers all while supporting their families during multiple relocations. They are not only excelling in their studies, but paying it forward by helping other military service members and their families. Click [here](#) to view event photos.



Tennis Pros: Stanley Pawlowski, Damon Gooch, Richey Reneberg, Patrick Osuna, Cameron Lickle, Tony Applewhaite, Francis Alvir, and Dave Marshall



ThanksUSA is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2017-18 academic year **April 1 to May 15**

Eligible military spouses and dependent children are encouraged to apply today. Learn more [here](#).



ThanksUSA National Spokesperson Stephen Curry

ThanksUSA National Spokesperson Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors are heading into the 2017 NBA Playoffs this weekend as the Western Conference's top seed. Watch on Sunday as the Warriors take on the Portland Trail Blazers.

Learn more about Stephen: ["Who Is Stephen Curry?"](#) Sports Illustrated



Introducing Silver Star Coffee Partnership

Silver Star Coffee, a veteran owned and operated company, made it their mission to help those who have served our country while sharing the delicious rich flavor of Costa Rican coffee. **Twenty-five percent** of all profits are donated to ThanksUSA (supported states include CA, KS, KY, MD, OR, and VA, along with DC).

Try a sample of their fresh, hand roasted coffee for free!



Charles Eggleston, a Voice for Change

Click [here](#) to read a Q&A with Army Staff Sergeant Charles Eggleston (Ret), a longtime supporter of ThanksUSA who helps wounded warriors with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder rehab through golf.



Tennis Thanks the Troops

Tennis Thanks the Troops is gearing up for Memorial Day tennis events and fundraisers across the country.

On May 27, the **All-American Family Day Bash** will take place at the Junior Tennis Champions Center in College Park, MD. The day will include a Pro-Am, singles and doubles tournaments, and adaptive tennis for veterans, with prizes, food, and music for the whole family to enjoy.



Upcoming Events

APRIL 26, 2017

[Senators Stevens and Inouye Memorial Scholarship Luncheon \(DC\)](#)
Charles Palmer Steak (DC)

MAY 8, 2017

[ThanksUSA Charity Golf Tournament](#)
Creighton Farms Golf Club (VA)

JULY 24, 2017

[Heartland 4 Heroes Golf Tournament](#)
Governors Club (TN)

OCTOBER 25, 2017

[Treasure Our Troops Gala](#)
Four Seasons Hotel (DC)

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