



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

August 2016

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ThanksUSA in the News

Click to read "[Military Families Deserve More than Lip Service](#)," a special in USA TODAY by General James L. Jones and Sheila Casey.



ThanksUSA & Kaplan University Award Full-Tuition Scholarships to Military Families

ThanksUSA announced that Kaplan University will award full-tuition scholarships to three military spouses of active duty service members in the armed forces.

The first Kaplan scholarship recipient in the 2016-17 college season is Army spouse and mother of three, **Andrea Barreiro** of Arlington, VA. Barreiro, who grew up in a military family, was named the Fort Myer Military Spouse of the Year for 2016. Accompanied by her family, she was presented with a check on court during "Celebrate Our Heroes" night at the Citi Open on July 23.

Pictured above with Rear Admiral Sean Buck, Kaplan University Vice President Meg O'Grady, and ThanksUSA President Kevin Schmiegel.



ThanksUSA National Spokesperson Stephen Curry

ThanksUSA National Spokesperson Stephen Curry wrapped up his record-breaking NBA season with the Golden State Warriors by losing a hard-fought Finals series against the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Along with all other Warriors fans, we look forward to next season and wish Stephen well in the off-season.

ThanksUSA Awards Scholarship in Honor of Sergeant Matthew Thomas

We were honored to present **Shae Corey**, a recipient from Orlando, with a Sergeant Matthew Thomas/ThanksUSA scholarship at the recent USPTA Florida Convention. The scholarship was awarded as a result of a successful Hawaiian Luau Fundraiser for Tennis Thanks the Troops.



Pictured above at the check presentation: Tweet Coleman, Conrad Cowan, ThanksUSA scholar Shae Corey, her mother retired Navy Commander Tani Corey, and husband Mark.

ThanksUSA Staff News

ThanksUSA Marketing and Creative Director Kelly Sohou and husband Sgt. Alex Sohou welcomed their first child on May 27. Maya Rose Sohou was born in New York City and recently took her first trip to Washington, DC.



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

[DONATE NOW](#)

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Greetings,

ThanksUSA kicked off the summer by launching **\$100 Million Strong**, a campaign to grant more than 25,000 scholarships to military spouses and children in need over the next 10 years. To lead the campaign, ThanksUSA announced that the former executive director and founder of Hiring Our Heroes, retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Schmiegel, has assumed the role of president, effective June 1, 2016.

"The need to close the financial gap for military families seeking higher education is clear and compelling, and the \$100 Million Strong campaign will help to do just that," said Schmiegel. "While the post-9/11 G.I. Bill has supported many, it simply isn't enough for the hundreds of thousands of families serving on active duty with multiple children and only one source of income."



Click [here](#) to read more about the campaign.

ThanksUSA Scholar Spotlight

Scholars Giving Back at ThanksUSA Events

"As I aim to become the best student, professional, son, and brother I can be, I thank the Casey family and the members of ThanksUSA with graciousness and sincerity," said Air Force dependent **Justin Kidd**, a Jackson Casey Fund scholar who participated in the golf tournament this year. "My fellow awardees and I truly appreciate your contributions that will help make our dreams a reality."

Justin is an Honors College student at James Madison University with plans to earn a medical degree and specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation.



Justin Kidd



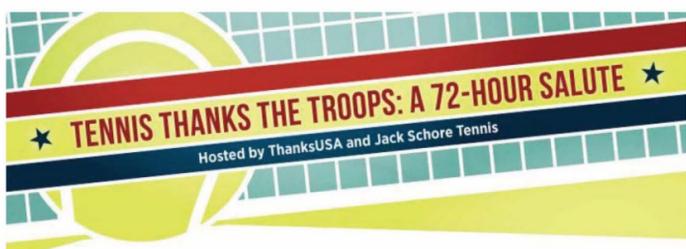
Darius Williams-Mckenzie

Darius Williams-Mckenzie, an Army Reserve dependent, was awarded a \$3,000 ThanksUSA scholarship for the 2015-16 school year to continue a Broadcast Journalism major at Penn State University.

"I want to thank ThanksUSA for assisting me in my financial situation as well as giving me an opportunity to participate in the 72 Hour Salute. Due to high tuition costs, I'm not sure I would be able to continue my secondary education without the ThanksUSA scholarship. Thank you so much for all you do for military personnel, veterans, and their families."



Darius with participants at Tennis Thanks the Troops: A 72-Hour Salute



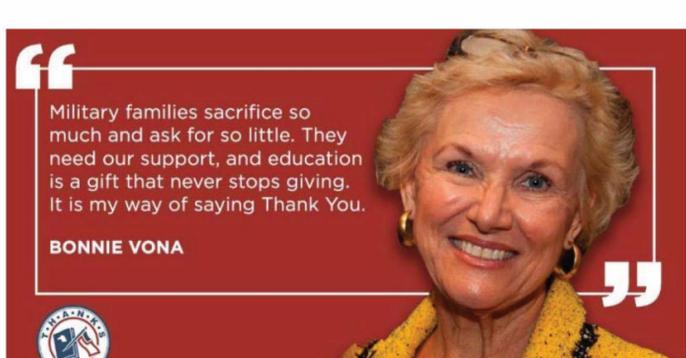
Tennis Thanks the Troops: A 72-Hour Salute

Adaptive Tennis Clinic for Military Families
ThanksUSA presented a Veterans Adaptive Tennis Clinic for wounded service members on July 17. The clinic was led by Brenda Gilmore, PTR Adaptive Tennis Certified and 2015 PTR Maryland Member of the Year, along with Elliott Datlow, 2014 USTA Mid-Atlantic Tennis Professional of the Year. The clinic, hosted by Montgomery TennisPlex in Boyds, Maryland, was followed by a sponsor reception. (See [ABC7 news coverage](#))

An Inspiring World Record Challenge
As part of the Tennis Marathon Challenge beginning on July 1, Bonnie Vona completed a record-breaking performance in front of America's military families. Vona, Senior Manager with the USTA's Mid-Atlantic Section, surpassed the Guinness World Record total of 36 for most consecutive matches in tennis singles. (See [ABC7 news coverage](#))

An Independence Day to Remember
Montgomery TennisPlex supported this Tennis Thanks the Troops effort by hosting the 72-Hour Salute, beginning with Vona's tennis marathon and wrapping up with 4th of July activities. These included a Firecracker Open L8 tournament, Montgomery's largest tennis clinic, USTA Mid-Atlantic sponsored tennis contests, and a "Racquets and Rockets" fireworks party.

Click [here](#) to view event photos.



BONNIE VONA

Jackson Casey Memorial Golf Tournament

The fifth annual Jackson Casey Memorial Golf Tournament took place at Belle Haven Country Club on July 18. Friends and family gathered to celebrate the life of Jackson Casey by raising funds to provide scholarships for the children of our nation's military.

This year, the Jackson Casey Fund will award 58 more scholarships to our military children. Over the past five years, the Jackson Casey Fund has raised nearly \$1 million to benefit the mission of ThanksUSA and has awarded 181 scholarships in Jackson's name.



Casey family golfers