



# Thanking America's Troops and Their Families with the Gift of Education and Pathways to Meaningful Employment

August 2018

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### THANK YOU for Helping Us Reach Our Goal!

The 2017-18 Kovner Foundation Challenge Grant was a huge success. With the generous support of individual donors like you, ThanksUSA raised \$614,424, of which \$400,000 will be matched by **The Kovner Foundation**.

The funds will benefit military families for years to come by supporting our mission of providing scholarships and pathways to employment for military spouses and kids.

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Greetings!

As the summer winds to a close and we usher in a new academic year, we are reminded of just how great it is to work with and for military families! This year, we will award up to \$1.5 million in scholarships to military spouses and children nationwide! Our scholars represent all branches of military service, attend colleges and universities here and abroad, and have educational and employment goals that reflect the diversity and opportunity of this great nation.

Next month, we will announce our 2018-19 class of scholarship recipients. As we celebrate with those who receive the great news of a scholarship award, our minds and hearts are with those who remain in need. We thank you for your dedication to military families and to our mission. Together, we look forward to the day when we will be able to award scholarships to all who qualify. In the meantime, our Pathways for Patriots program is providing valuable career development opportunities to more and more military families.



Scholars at the Pathways for Patriots Congressional Reception in July along with ThanksUSA co-founder Kelsi Okun (second from right)



## ThanksUSA Scholar Spotlight

Congratulations to recent Pima Medical Institute graduate **Caitlin Murphy**! The proud wife of a United States Marine and recipient of a 2017-2018 Monster Energy Drink/ThanksUSA scholarship, Caitlin earned an Associate of Applied Science and is preparing to take national and state licensing exams to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

Caitlin will complete a Post-graduate RVN Internship with the San Diego Zoo. Next year, she hopes to travel to Zimbabwe with Worldwide Vets and help re-introduce lions and elephants into the wild. Long-term, Caitlin intends to continue working as a Registered Veterinary Nurse specializing in zoological medicine.



Caitlin Murphy with her husband, Justin Fabling, Nia Gibbs-Francis, and Mariah Smith

Special thanks to Heartland 4 Heroes/ThanksUSA scholars **Nia Gibbs-Francis, Mariah Smith, and Justin Fabling** for representing ThanksUSA at this year's Heartland 4 Heroes Golf Tournament.

Nia is preparing for her final year of undergraduate studies at Austin Peay State University. After completing a Social Work major and sociology minor, Nia intends to pursue dual graduate degrees in Social Work and Nonprofit Leadership and Management.

A student at the University of Tennessee: Knoxville, Mariah majors in Kinesiology with a minor in Nutrition. She intends to continue academic pursuits, earning a Master's in Athletic Training and Doctorate of Physical Therapy.

Justin graduated from Campbell University in 2010 with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in PGA Golf Management as well as an MBA. Justin and his employer, Covenant Surgical, have supported the H4H Golf Tournament for the past four years.

Learn more about scholars on the ThanksUSA [Blog](#).

## Pathways for Patriots Update

In July, ThanksUSA scholars, supporters and corporate partners came together for our inaugural **Scholar Enrichment Day & Career Fair**. With more than 35 scholars from across the country, it was a day of personal and professional growth. Hosted by **Lockheed Martin**, and in partnership with nearly 20 organizations and corporations, this event was a huge success!

Senior executives from a broad range of industries shared career advice and best practices for resume prep, interviewing, networking, and more. After engaging with employers at a bustling career fair, scholars shared that they walked away with newfound skills and tangible leads for employment.

One highlight of the day was hearing from keynote speaker, ThanksUSA Board Member and former First Lady of the Marine Corps, Mrs. Bonnie Amos. A tireless advocate for military spouse education and employment, Bonnie shared the wisdom she gained as a military spouse during her husband's 42-year career and more than 31 relocations with their family. She reminded us that military families have unique skills and strengths -- or, in Bonnie's words, "You're just damn good!"

Later that evening, ThanksUSA scholars and supporters convened on Capitol Hill for our Pathways for Patriots Congressional Reception. We heard from ThanksUSA scholar **Anna Calhoun**, a military spouse who recently completed her Healthcare Administration degree, and **Henry Hill**, who is pursuing a degree in Educational Technology. In closing, ThanksUSA President & CEO Jon Rosa encouraged scholars to make the most of military lifestyle challenges by remembering that with great sacrifice comes great strength.



## Heartland 4 Heroes Golf Tournament

The 6th annual Heartland 4 Heroes Golf Tournament took place on July 30, raising funds for 15 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.



Golfers at the 6th annual tournament include Mudbone, Bob Harrison, Raden Smith, and LTG John W. Morgan III, USA (Ret)



## Citi Open Heroes' Day

ThanksUSA was proud to participate in Citi Open Heroes' Day on July 29. Military families participated in a free tennis clinic and various on-court activities throughout the day.

Rear Admiral Sean Buck led a swearing in ceremony for military enlistees and later visited with players from ThanksUSA's Veterans Adaptive Tennis Clinic. Later, David Lee of **CVS Health** presented a check to ThanksUSA scholar **Henry Hill** on center court (pictured below).



PATHWAYS FOR PATRIOTS™

## Pathways for Patriots Gala

**Wednesday, September 26, 2018**  
Four Seasons Hotel, Washington, DC

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
The Honorable Heather Wilson  
24th Secretary of the Air Force

**MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**  
Barbara Starr  
Pentagon Correspondent, CNN

**HONOREES**  
U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)  
Lockheed Martin  
Carl and Patricia Pignoli

For more event details, please visit our [website](#).



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

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