WHAT’S HAPPENING

Treasure Our Troops Gala

More than 250 supporters attended the annual Treasure Our Troops Gala that featured honorees General Richard B. Myers, USAF (Ret), 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Mrs. Mary Jo Myers, Founding Member of ThanksUSA’s Advisory Council; U.S. Congressman Bob Goodlatte; and Smiths Detection. Tommy McFly, Host of The Tommy Show on 94.7 Fresh FM, acted as emcee, and General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, delivered the keynote speech.

Other special guests to take the stage included 10 scholarship recipients, ThanksUSA Board Member General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret), and ThanksUSA Advisory Council Members Lt. General Tad Oelstrom, USAF (Ret); Mrs. Sheila Casey; and Mrs. Deborah Mullen.

Our scholar speaker Benjamin Solem, an Army dependent, has received $12,000 in ThanksUSA scholarships to pursue a Biomedical Science major at Liberty University. Ben spoke of the important legacy being created by ThanksUSA and its sponsors. We are so grateful for the continued support enabling us to thank our military members by providing the gift of education to their spouses and children.

Pathways for Patriots

ThanksUSA unveiled the Pathways for Patriots education-to-career initiative at the Gala on September 28. The program will pair companies seeking hard-to-find employees with our scholarship recipients.

“With corporations struggling to find skilled workers and fill jobs in disciplines such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), Pathways for Patriots will provide pipelines of talented scholars to these fields,” said ThanksUSA President and retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Schmiegel, who devised the initiative.

The Pathway to Tech and the Pathway to Public Service will be the first two pipelines established, with more to follow (i.e., Healthcare, Hospitality, Financial Services, Manufacturing, Energy, Arts). As well as filling critical jobs for corporations, the initiative will help to establish careers for our scholars through mentoring, internships, and employee engagement.

The Pathway to Public Service will be funded by the Mrs. Mary Jo Myers Scholarship Fund and will award 40 scholarships annually as a tribute to Mrs. Myers’ 40 years of public service.

The Mrs Mary Jo Myers Scholarship Fund will benefit military spouses and children interested in pursuing careers in teaching, social work, law enforcement, etc.

Please consider joining us in 2017 for a chance to provide direct assistance to military dependents with specialized skills in your industry.

Scholarship Program Highlights

Nearly 4,000 scholarships awarded for a total value of $12,040,437

Our scholarship recipients come from each of the 50 states and DC and represent all military branches

Scholarships Awarded By Military Branch Since 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Branch</th>
<th>Scholarships Awarded</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>$4,359,270 – 36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>$3,376,152 – 28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guard/Reserve</td>
<td>$1,566,400 – 13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>$1,402,750 – 12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Corps</td>
<td>$1,025,865 – 8%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coast Guard</td>
<td>$310,000 – 3%</td>
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Accompanied by her family, Andrea was present—ed with a scholarship check on court during “Celebrate Our Heroes” night at the Citi Open on July 23. (Pictured with Rear Admiral Sean Buck, Kaplan University Vice President Meg O’Grady, and ThanksUSA President Kevin Schmiegel)

SCARLET LEVINE
Current Scholar
Scarlet Levine was awarded a $3,000 Bruce & Suzie Kovner/ThanksUSA scholarship to continue a Psychology major at the University of Maryland University College.

An Army spouse and mother of three, Scarlet faced criticism when she decided to pursue an undergraduate degree. “Everyone around me thought I was crazy for starting my college career so late in life.” Currently in her third year of studies, Scarlet maintains a perfect GPA while continuing to volunteer in the community, take care of her children, and support her husband’s active-duty career. After completing her studies at UMUC, Scarlet plans to pursue a graduate degree in Mental Health Counseling. Her ultimate goal is to seek employment with the Department of Defense and serve the military community.

“Scholarships such as this lift the uncertainty and stress that the high cost of college can place on individuals. When I received my reward letter, I jumped for joy... I am truly appreciative of the generous donors that make ThanksUSA scholarships possible.”

2016 Events Recap
ThanksUSA honored General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret), and military families at the Senator Stevens and Senator Inouye Memorial Scholarship Luncheon on April 14 in Washington, DC.

ThanksUSA’s Annual Golf Tournament, underwritten by Intelligent Decisions, featured a day of golf on May 9 at Creighton Farms Golf Club in Aldie, VA.

The fifth annual Jackson Casey Memorial Golf Tournament, which raises funds for military dependents in Jackson’s name, was held on July 18 at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, VA.

Red Cloud Food Services’ Heartland 4 Heroes Golf Tournament on August 8 at the Governors Club in Brentwood, TN, benefited spouses and children of those serving at Fort Campbell, KY, and other Heartland States.

ThanksUSA held Tennis Pro-Am Tournaments in Fisher Island, FL, and Potomac Falls, VA, this year, bringing together tennis pros and local amateurs to support military families.

Tennis Thanks the Troops: A 72-Hour Salute was held at the Montgomery TennisPlex in Boyds, MD, and included a Veterans Adaptive Tennis Clinic, a World Record Tennis Marathon Challenge, and July 4th Family Festival.

Thank you to our generous event sponsors and supporters! Proceeds from these events support our mission of providing scholarships to military families. Please check our website for 2017 event dates.

Kaplan University Awards Full-Tuition Scholarships
ThanksUSA announced that Kaplan University will award full-tuition scholarships to three military spouses of active-duty service members.

The first Kaplan scholarship recipient in the 2016-17 college season is Army spouse and mother of three Andrea Barreiro of Arlington, VA. Andrea, who grew up in a military family, was named the Fort Myer Military Spouse of the Year for 2016.

“I’m so honored to have been selected to receive this scholarship so that I may extend opportunities into our community for generations to come.”

Andrea along with her husband, 1st Sgt. Jose Barreiro of the 3d US Infantry Regiment, wish to open a business that will include local outreach and promote employment growth in the community.

“View a Recap of Our 2016 News Coverage: www.ThanksUSA.org/videos”
Tennis Thanks the Troops Encourages Tennis Pros to Support a Scholar this Veterans Day

Tennis Thanks the Troops (TTTT), the joint initiative of ThanksUSA and the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA), is encouraging tennis professionals to donate proceeds from a lesson, clinic or event to fund USPTA/ThanksUSA scholarships for military dependents in its “Support a Scholar” campaign.

Tennis clubs across the country have hosted a total of 25 events so far this year with ThanksUSA as beneficiary, and several more will take place around Veterans Day. USPTA divisions leading the way with most events in 2016 include Mid-Atlantic, Florida and Southern. The goal for 2017, set at this year’s USPTA World Conference, is to support more military families through TTTT events by having representation in all divisions nationwide.

To learn more, visit www.ThanksUSA.org/Tennis-Thanks-the-Troops.

National Spokesperson Stephen Curry

ThanksUSA National Spokesperson and reigning NBA MVP Stephen Curry is back on the court for a much-anticipated season with the Golden State Warriors. The regular season opened at home on October 25. After game one, Stephen continued his three-point field goal streak with 153 straight regular season games with a three made. We wish Stephen and the Warriors the best of luck!

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