"Thank you for supporting me and creating opportunities for students like me to fulfill our dreams!"

Army Spouse Anh Nguyen

Providing scholarships and pathways to employment for military spouses and kids
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS
Joint Armed Forces Color Guard, Military District Washington

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Gregory Harrington, Concert Violin Soloist

INVOCATION

WELCOME REMARKS
Barbara Starr
Pentagon Correspondent, CNN

VIDEO PRESENTATION

PATHWAYS FOR PATRIOTS
Jon Rosa
President & CEO, ThanksUSA

PRESENTATION OF AWARD
The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senator, Alaska

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARS

SCHOLAR REMARKS
LaQueShia Jeffries, MS.Ed

DINNER

SPECIAL REMARKS
Elliot Ackerman, Author

PRESENTATION OF AWARD
Carl and Patricia Pignoli
Helping Hand Scholarship Fund

PRESENTATION OF AWARD
Lockheed Martin

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

INSPIRATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT
Gregory Harrington, Concert Violin Soloist

DINNER MENU

FIRST COURSE
Washingtonville Arugula Salad
Shaved Manchego Cheese, Farro, Madjool Dates, Walnut Dressing
Assorted Artisanal Bread with Whipped Butter

ENTRÉE
Beef Short Rib & Arctic Char
Cauliflower Mash, Pecorino Cheese, Herb Roasted Butternut Squash,
Gremolata Madeira Sauce

DESSERT
Assorted Macarons
Hot Coffee & Tea Service

WINE OFFERINGS
Warwick Professor Black Sauvignon Blanc, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Maggio Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Lodi, California

DESSERT RECEPTION
After party immediately following program in Seasons
Mini Apple Pie, Lemon Lavender Tart, S’mores Krispy Bars
ABOUT ThanksUSA

ThanksUSA is a 501(c)(3) organization that thanks the men and women in the U.S. military by providing need-based, post-secondary scholarships for their spouses and children, with special emphasis given to those who lost a loved one. Since 2006, ThanksUSA has awarded 4,500 scholarships valued at $14 million to military families in all 50 states and every branch of the military.

Recognizing the challenges that military families, and military spouses in particular, face with employment, ThanksUSA launched the Pathways for Patriots program. The initiative is cultivating professional relationships between our scholars and corporate partners through mentoring, networking, internships, and other career development opportunities.

“The ThanksUSA scholarship really made the difference in me being able to continue pursuing my studies while supporting and caring for our family as my husband serves this country.”

Army Spouse LaQueshia Jeffries
On behalf of our Board of Directors, our Advisory Council, and the staff of ThanksUSA, we’d like to thank you for joining us for the 2018 Pathways for Patriots Gala!

Tonight, we honor our phenomenal scholars and distinguished supporters. We’re here to recognize those who have helped us establish a thriving organization stemming from the idea of two young sisters in 2005. It’s a chance to acknowledge those who have built our scholarship program that has awarded more than $14 million to military spouses and children nationwide. It is also a time to glimpse into the future as the Pathways for Patriots program helps our scholars transition from education to meaningful employment.

The unique experiences of military families help them develop traits and transferable skills including adaptability, resilience, commitment, problem-solving, communication, and global perspective. With these experiences come unique challenges. We look forward to advancing the ThanksUSA agenda, with the help of our corporate and non-profit partners, to bridge the gaps that our scholars are facing when it comes to education and employment.

In the spirit of celebration, we would like to acknowledge each of you in making this a memorable year. We are proud of the accomplishments of our scholars and thankful for the support that has opened new doors of opportunity to the ThanksUSA network. We recognize just how invaluable your contributions have been, and will continue to be, as we fulfill our mission of saying THANKS to military families with the gift of education and now pathways to employment.

We thank you for your continued support and partnership and wish you a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,
The Gala Co-Chairs

Andrew Don
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Heather Wilson is the 24th Secretary of the Air Force and is responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the organizing, training and equipping and providing for the welfare of 670,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian forces as well as their families. She oversees the Air Force’s annual budget of more than $138 billion and directs strategy and policy development, risk management, weapons acquisition, technology investments and human resource management across a global enterprise. Wilson has more than 35 years of professional experience in a range of leadership and management roles in the military, higher education, government and private industry. Before assuming her current position, Wilson was president of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, an engineering and science research university. From 1998 to 2009, Wilson was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served on the House Armed Services Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. She graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in the third class to include women, and earned her master’s and doctorate degrees as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England.
Dan Sullivan was sworn in as Alaska’s eighth United States Senator on January 6, 2015. He serves on four Senate committees: the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; the Armed Services Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Veterans’ Affairs Committee. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, he served as Alaska’s Attorney General and Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Sullivan has a distinguished record of military and national security service. He is currently an infantry officer and Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. Since 1993, he has served in a variety of command and staff billets on active duty and in the reserves. Sullivan also served in the Administration of President George W. Bush as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business, and as a Director in the International Economics Directorate of the National Security Council staff at the White House. Dan and his wife Julie were married over 20 years ago, and they have three teenage daughters: Meghan, Isabella and Laurel.

Carl and Patricia Pignoli grew up in Southern California during the ‘40s and ‘50s. He graduated from UCLA with an engineering degree and applied his talents to rocket science and, more specifically, rocket propulsion. He worked on the development of numerous systems that allow the military to successfully complete their missions, such as Tomahawk, Standard Missile, Trident, Atlas, Delta, GBI, and THAAD. Carl retired in 2001 and moved to Arizona where he met Patricia. Patricia grew up in Northern Connecticut and as a teenager moved to New York City. She moved to Arizona in the ’70s and ran a retail store. She and Carl met online in 2007 and later married on a Maui beach at sunset. Carl and Patricia established the Helping Hand Scholarship Fund (a ThanksUSA Fund). Carl is leaving his estate to the Fund and Patricia is listing the Fund in her Living Trust. They said, “We believe it’s important to give back, especially to military families who have given so much of their lives for our freedom.”

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 100,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. Lockheed Martin is a proud supporter of ThanksUSA and is a Founding Member of the Pathway to STEM, providing scholarships and pathways to employment for military spouses and kids pursuing careers in STEM-related fields.
Gregory Harrington is one of Ireland’s most recognized violinists, with a wide ranging diversity that encompasses classical to jazz to crossover. He has performed all over the world as soloist with many esteemed symphony orchestras from the San Diego Symphony to the RTE Concert Orchestra and in some of the world’s most prestigious venues. His last album *Bach: Transcriptions and Variations* achieved great success in the Billboard Charts and later this year, he releases an album of jazz standards (from *When I Fall in Love to Hallelujah*) with his jazz quartet on the Estile Records Label. He has also finished recording the works for violin and orchestra of Philip Glass with the Janacek Philharmonic and conductor Mark Shapiro which includes the recording of his concert suite for violin and orchestra based on the movie score *The Hours* by Philip Glass, maintaining that age-old violinistic tradition of writing virtuoso transcriptions.
LaQueshia Jeffries, MS.Ed
ThanksUSA Scholarship Recipient

LaQueshia Jeffries is a K-2 Special Educator in Prince William County, Virginia. In 2008, LaQueshia received a ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at Western Governors University. Over the past ten years, LaQueshia graduated from WGU, earned a Master of Education degree from Walden University, and completed certifications in Special Education and Non-Profit Management. Most recently, she completed a 200-hour Yoga & Mindfulness Training for Educators. She is married to Captain Marcus Jeffries, U.S. Army, and has three sons, Marcus, Preston and Jonathan.

Leslie Caleb | Army Spouse
• Majors in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at Purdue University Global with hopes to work for a humanitarian organization

Sevon Chambers | Army Dependent
• Majors in Pre-Physical Therapy at Rose State College in Oklahoma

Haley Childress | Air Force Spouse
• Earned BS in Healthcare Administration at Liberty University
• Recruiting Operations Associate at MHM Services Inc.

Frances Dean | Army Dependent
• Earned a BS in Health Professions with a Global Health minor at The University of Georgia
• Public Health Advisor at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

James Green | Marine Corps Dependent
• Earned a Bachelor’s degree in Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University
• Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State

Regan Mcallister | Air Force Dependent
• Majors in International Affairs with a concentration in International Economics and Asian Studies at The George Washington University
• Turkey-MENA intern with U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Bernard Mcpherson, Jr. | Army Dependent
• Studied Music Education at Alcorn State University and earned a Master’s degree from Southeastern Louisiana University
• In his third year as Elementary School Principal

Rhianna Miller | Army Dependent
• Earned a Bachelor of Accountancy and Master of Science in Accountancy at the University of San Diego
• Assurance Manager at Ernst & Young

Charlotte Orren | Navy Dependent
• Earned a BS in Aerospace Engineering with a Systems Engineering minor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida
• Pilot Systems and Flying Qualities Engineer at Lockheed Martin

Enkh-ochir Sanz | Army Spouse
• Earned a BS in Nursing at Marymount University
• Registered Nurse with Inova Health Systems and a volunteer EMT

Gabriela Trujillo-Williams | Marine Corps Spouse
• Earned BS in Molecular Biology from George Mason University

Jasmine Wilkerson | Army Spouse
• Majors in Business Administration at Miller Motte Business College with plans for a career in healthcare administration
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Win Sheridan
“I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to ThanksUSA and all the wonderful sponsors who are making a real difference in the lives of military dependents.”

Air Force Dependent Chelsea Olson
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“ThanksUSA shows that there are people who genuinely care about our military and their families.”

Air National Guard Dependent
Ian McKinley
Charitable Gift Planning

GIVE THANKS
to military families who have preserved our freedoms

FIND JOY
in helping students achieve their goals and share in their success

CREATE A LEGACY
to help fund the education of military spouses and children through an established 501(c)(3) organization with strong governance and fiscal responsibility

Bequests: You can designate ThanksUSA as a beneficiary in your will or living trust or name ThanksUSA as the beneficiary of an insurance policy, IRA, or other financial document. Charitable bequests qualify for estate tax deductions. Charitable bequests cost nothing now, but they can enhance the life of military families plus benefit the neighborhoods and cities where they acquire and put their skills to work.

Contact: For more information, please contact Michele Stork at 703-855-4108 or MicheleStork@ThanksUSA.org.

The Helping Hand Scholarship Fund was established as a bequest of Carl and Patricia Pignoli.

ThanksUSA will award the renewable Helping Hand Scholarship to the spouse or child of a disabled or fallen military member. Scholarship recipients must begin their post high school education at a community college and may receive up to $38,000 if they wish to continue to obtain a four-year Bachelor’s Degree.
“The three scholarships that I received from ThanksUSA have helped me with the cost of my education while pursuing my passion for social work. I am very grateful.”

Navy Spouse Josefina Howard
pictured above with her husband and two sons

ThanksUSA
1390 Chain Bridge Road #260
McLean, VA 22101

www.ThanksUSA.org