WHAT’S HAPPENING

Raising the Bar in 2017
This year is gearing up to be our best yet — with new events planned and new initiatives to help propel our scholars even further toward their goals. In 2017 ThanksUSA will focus on creating career opportunities for our scholarship recipients through our Pathways for Patriots program. We are particularly looking forward to our Capitol Hill Event on March 7, as we partner with the Congressional High Tech and Military Family Caucuses on that initiative.

Another highlight will be the Treasure Our Troops Gala in October, featuring Washington Redskins legend Darrell Green as the emcee for the evening! From our golf tournaments to our tennis Pro-Am, we can’t wait to get out and thank our supporters for all that they do for our military family scholarship program.

Q&A: Charles Eggleston, A Voice for Change
Army Staff Sergeant Charles Eggleston (Ret) has reached national prominence as an advocate for wounded soldiers and military families. Charles served for 16 years, incurring several injuries during multiple tours in Iraq and spent three years recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical in the nation’s capital. His experiences there helped expose shortcomings in the care of fellow wounded service men and women, leading to significant changes. Charles is a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient.

Charles is a longtime supporter of ThanksUSA, helps wounded warriors with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder rehab through golf, and is a suicide prevention officer.

He is also a golf ambassador for ThanksUSA, inspiring other wounded warriors in our charity tournament. Charles was recently honored at the ThanksUSA Volunteer Luncheon, where his daughter Sierra, a sophomore at Temple University, received a $3,000 Army Navy Country Club/ThanksUSA scholarship.

2017 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2–3, 2017
ThanksUSA Charity Tennis Pro-Am
Trump National Golf Club (VA)

MARCH 7, 2017
Capitol Hill Reception
Rayburn House Office Building (DC)

APRIL 26, 2017
Senators Stevens and Inouye Memorial Scholarship Luncheon
Charlie 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)

www.ThanksUSA.org/events

Charles shares his experiences after being wounded in combat, and what compels him to serve military families and support ThanksUSA.

Q: What inspired you to join the military?
As a kid I always played with GI Joe, and I always wanted to be one of those guys. When Desert Storm kicked off I said to myself, “What have I given back to those that have served us?” I had done nothing other than work and school. That is when I went down and joined up, and it was about a year after Desert Storm ended that I joined the military.

Q: What did you discover during your recovery at Walter Reed about the care soldiers were receiving that has led you to help so many wounded?
I was one of the guys that blew the whistle on the system — we had the best surgeons in the world, but we had the worst caregivers. Very few of the management had ever been to war. I had 56 surgeries over a period of 3½ years, and at that point a lot of my comrades were taking their own lives.

Q: How did golf become such a passion, and how does it help wounded veterans through the process of healing?
I never thought golf was a sport for regular guys. I thought it was a rich person’s sport, but I was totally wrong. It’s a community sport, truthfully. I learned that from guys like Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. It took me out of the dungeon, and it eased my
Mesothelomas JAMES
Current Scholar

Army spouse Marcellinia James was awarded a $3,000 USA Funds/ThanksUSA scholarship for her junior year of Nursing studies at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Georgia.

After completing her undergraduate studies, Marcellinia hopes to work in a critical care or ICU unit. After gaining experience as a Registered Nurse, she hopes to enroll in a graduate program to become a nurse anesthetist.

Marcellinia says, “My husband has been deployed through much of my undergraduate studies. Between the demanding time of the nursing program and taking care of our daughter, I have only been able to work a few hours per week. With only one spouse working full-time, we definitely notice a difference financially. An investment in my studies by this scholarship is easing the burden of the costly tuition and supplies the Nursing program requires students to purchase.”

Q: Why is the gift of post-secondary education so important to military families?

Education broadens opportunities. It gives you a fighting chance. It provides a more equal playing field, and that’s why the gift means so much.

Q: Your daughter recently received a $3,000 Army Navy Country Club/ThanksUSA scholarship. What did that mean to both of you?

It meant a whole lot. ThanksUSA is empowering me to live my dreams through my kids. It gave me the opportunity to live a part of the great American dream.

Q: How can others get involved in supporting our nation’s service men and women?

By going online and looking at organizations such as ThanksUSA, talking to veterans or warfighters such as myself, or just showing up at tournaments and seeing for yourself what happens. You can look at a plate of lasagna all day long and say it looks good until you taste it. My quote would be, “Just get a taste of it.” You will get caught up in the moment. And that’s what it takes to relate and understand the true meaning of giving to those who served and helping those who laid it all on the line.
Tennis Thanks the Troops

On January 13, ThanksUSA hosted a Veterans Adaptive Tennis Fundraiser at Isleworth Golf & Country Club in Windermere, Florida. The event featured ThanksUSA Board Member General Ann E. Dunwoody, U.S. Army (Ret), as a special guest speaker at the luncheon. General Dunwoody also held a Q&A and book signing of *A Higher Standard: Leadership Strategies from America’s First Female Four-Star General*.

The event began with a fun morning of tennis activities including a Sponsor Pro-Am and Power 90 Cardio Doubles Tennis, followed by a Veterans Adaptive Tennis Clinic with coordination from the Orlando VA Medical Center. The clinic was led by Brenda Gilmore, PTR Adaptive Tennis Certified and 2015 PTR Maryland Member of the Year, with support from Isleworth Director of Tennis Len Simard and additional USPTA Florida Pros.

Shae Corey, a Sgt. Matthew Thomas/ThanksUSA scholarship recipient from Orlando, was in attendance with her mother Tani Corey, a retired Navy Commander, as well as Sonya Hightower LaBosco, the mother of fallen soldier Sgt. Matthew Jody Thomas. They have formed a special bond since meeting at a USPTA Florida Division Tennis Thanks the Troops event last year as the legacy of Shae’s education continues to honor the life of Sgt. Matthew Thomas.

National Spokesperson Stephen Curry

ThanksUSA National Spokesperson Stephen Curry has started off the new year on a high note. He recently returned to his high school Charlotte Christian where his #20 jersey was retired. That same night Davidson College renamed their arena’s student section “Section 30” in honor of Stephen, the school’s all-time leading scorer.

ThanksUSA Alumni & Friends

In 2016, ThanksUSA launched its Alumni & Friends website to support and connect the growing number of ThanksUSA scholars as they pursue careers after graduation. One hundred scholars have updated their profiles and are now able to search the scholar directory to connect with others in their region, industry, or area of study. With our scholars’ help, we will continue to grow this valuable tool in 2017.

HARRIS MOHSIN

Current Scholar

Army Reserve dependent Harris Mohsin was awarded a $3,000 Blavatnik Family Foundation/ThanksUSA scholarship to begin undergraduate studies at New York University’s Leonard N. Stern School of Business.

Planning for a career in financial consulting, Harris will major in Business and is considering minors in Information System or Computer Science. He intends to continue his education and pursue a Master’s in Business Administration.

Harris has joined the NYU Finance Society and is in the process of applying to the NYU chapter of 180 Degrees Consulting, a professional organization committed to providing effective consulting services.

Harris says, “Your gift motivates me to work hard and succeed so that one day I may be able to pay it forward and provide scholarships for students the way you did for me. Education is the key to opening doors of opportunity and, thanks to you, I will be able to take full advantage of my education.”
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ThanksUSA Scholarship Program
Applications Open: April 1, 2017
Applications Close: May 15, 2017
www.ThanksUSA.org
Since 2006, ThanksUSA has awarded $12 million in scholarships.