



IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 9
JULY 1, 2021

Preston to Receive 2021 Marshall Medal

3

AUSA Appoints New Vice President

4

Member Benefits

Education Savings with AUSA

6



Chapter Highlights

Army Birthday Celebrations

7



The Welcome Back Campaign offers discounts across the board—for new members, renewing members and those who wish to extend their current membership. (AUSA PHOTO)

AUSA kicks off ‘Welcome Back’ effort

The Association of the U.S. Army is launching a Welcome Back Campaign to celebrate being back together again, usher in new and returning members and mark the end of a difficult period coping with COVID-19.

The campaign kicks off Thursday and features lower membership rates and other specials.

Reduced membership costs will continue through Oct. 31, 2022.

“It has been a difficult past 18 months for all of us; our members, soldiers, civilians, retirees and family members across AUSA and the Army,” said retired Brig. Gen. Jack Haley, who on Thursday became AUSA’s vice president for membership

and meetings.

“As we come out of this pandemic, AUSA wants to recognize the hardships endured and look to a promising future by extending a hand to all of our members and welcome you back.”

Haley added he’s “really excited” to be joining the AUSA team on the same day as the campaign’s launch.

The Welcome Back Campaign offers discounts across the board—for new members, renewing members and those who wish to extend their current membership.

During the campaign, individual memberships are \$30 for two years or \$50 for five years.

Lifetime members pay four month-

ly installments of \$100.

Memberships for junior military and civilian personnel, including soldiers in the grades of E-1 through E-4, are \$10 for two years.

Family memberships also are available for \$15 for two years or \$30 for five years.

“We’ve made it easier for you to join or renew online and are exploring more members-only offerings that continue to add value to your AUSA membership,” Haley said.

“As your association that supports and provides a voice for the Army and honors those who have served, we would like to welcome you back with open arms.”

For more information, click here.



THOUGHTLEADERS

WEBINAR SERIES

WARRANT OFFICERS

A U.S. ARMY PANEL DISCUSSION



JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

The webinar room will open at 1355.

Can't make it? The video will be available on our YouTube page the following day.

CW5 Richard Knowlton
*Senior Warrant Officer Advisor,
Army Talent Management Task Force*

CW5 Teresa A. Domeier
*Command Chief Warrant Officer,
U.S. Army National Guard*

CW5 Patrick Nelligan
*Command Chief Warrant Officer,
U.S. Army Reserve*

CW5 Jonathan O. Yerby
*Senior Warrant Officer Advisor,
U.S. Army Forces Command*

Moderated by

CW5(R) Phyllis J. Wilson
*Senior Fellow,
Association of the United States Army*

Opening remarks by

CW5 Yolondria Dixon-Carter
*Assistant Executive Officer & Senior Warrant
Officer Advisor, Office of the Chief of Staff, Army*



THURSDAY, 8 JULY
1400-1500 EDT

Warrant Officers are critical to successful operations today, and their importance to the mission will continue to increase as the Army transforms. Join us to hear a panel discussion focusing on warrant officer talent management—to include diversity, equity and inclusion—as well as accessions and retention.



**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

LEARN MORE & REGISTER ONLINE AT

WWW.AUSA.ORG/EVENTS

Retired SMA Preston to receive AUSA's Marshall Medal

The 2021 recipient of the Association of the U.S. Army's highest award for distinguished and selfless service is retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston, the association's board of directors announced.

The 64-year-old Preston, a native of Mount Savage, Maryland, was the 13th and longest serving Army senior enlisted adviser, retiring in 2011 after 36 years in uniform including seven as the top NCO and adviser to two Army chiefs of staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker and Gen. George Casey Jr.

"Words cannot adequately express the gratitude and honor of this selection to receive the Association of the United States Army's George C. Marshall Award," Preston said. "My heart and mind are so overwhelmed with the jubilation of this selection. I find it very difficult to take in the magnitude of this award."

He added, "After spending nearly two decades in and out of uniform attending the annual Marshall Dinner, watching and listening to senior government officials and statesmen, celebrities and senior leaders who were honored with this prestigious award, I am truly humbled."

'Extraordinary, lifelong service'

Retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO, said Preston embodies the essence of the well-known phrase that NCOs are the backbone of the Army.

"In awarding the Marshall Medal to SMA Preston, AUSA recognizes not only his extraordinary, lifelong service to the Army and to the nation, but also highlights the essential role of the noncommissioned officer throughout the Army's history," Ham said, noting that Preston accepted the Marshall Medal from AUSA in 2004 on behalf of that year's recipient, The American Soldier. "It is more than fitting that he now receives the award personally for all that he has done."



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston will receive AUSA's George Catlett Marshall Medal at the association's Annual Meeting and Exposition in October. (AUSA PHOTO)

"We are very proud at AUSA to recognize someone from our own family for our association's highest award for selfless service," said retired Gen. Robert Brown, AUSA executive vice president who will succeed Ham on Oct. 1 as AUSA president and CEO. "All of us who have served have benefited from the wisdom and guidance of senior NCOs. SMA Preston was a great leader when he served in uniform, was a great leader for AUSA, and remains a great leader today in his many other endeavors. I'm proud to know him."

After retiring from the Army, Preston was AUSA's NCO and Soldier Programs vice president from 2013 to 2019, a member of the Army Historical Foundation board of directors and an AUSA senior fellow.

He is a former president and now member of the board of directors of Homes for Our Troops, a nonprofit founded in 2004 to build housing for severely wounded veterans.

He also served as co-chair of the Army's Retired Soldier Council, which makes recommendations to Army leaders on aiding retired soldiers and surviving spouses.

Dan Dailey, AUSA's current vice president for NCO and Soldier Pro-

grams and the retired 15th sergeant major of the Army, said Preston deserves the honor.

"Ken has dedicated his life to taking care of soldiers, families and veterans," Dailey said. "He is a true Soldier for Life who continues to be an example for us all. Having had the honor to work for and with Ken for many years, I can think of no finer recipient of AUSA's most prestigious award."

Past recipients

The Marshall Medal, established in 1960, is named for George Catlett Marshall, who served as Army chief of staff, secretary of state and secretary of defense. It is awarded every year in October during the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Past recipients of the Marshall Medal include Generals of the Army Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley; Presidents Harry Truman, Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush; actor, director, musician, producer and philanthropist Gary Sinise; and retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan, the former Army chief of staff and former AUSA president.

In 2020, AUSA awarded the Marshall Medal to The Army Family.

Retired Brig. Gen. Haley is AUSA's new VP of membership and meetings



AUSA's new vice president for membership and meetings is retired Brig. Gen. Jack Haley, who was the Army's 38th chief of ordnance. (AUSA/RON COVILL)

Retired Brig. Gen. Jack Haley has been appointed as vice president for membership and meetings for the Association of the U.S. Army effective Thursday.

Haley, who retired in 2017 after 30 years of service, succeeds retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, who retired in January after five years at AUSA.

"It is an honor to continue to serve our Army with an organization that is devoted to supporting soldiers, their families and Army civilians," said Haley, who was the Army's 38th chief of ordnance and in 2019 was inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame. "I look forward to being part of an organization with the vision, mission and guiding principles that provide a voice for the Army and honors those who have served."

"I also can't wait to get out and meet all of our great region and chapter presidents and all of the AUSA team," Haley said.

A Fairport, New York, native, Haley served three overseas assignments in Germany and three combat tours in Iraq during his career, as well as assignments at Army Materiel Command, the Pentagon and the White House.

"Having known Jack Haley since he

was a major when we served together in Germany, I know that he possesses the qualities we need at AUSA," said retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO. "His recent business experience and his unwavering commitment to the Army make him the ideal choice to serve in this critical leadership position."

Retired Gen. Robert Brown, AUSA executive vice president who on Oct. 1 will become president and CEO of the association, said, "In my short time here at AUSA, I've learned we need a quick-thinking, highly organized and adaptable person to head our membership and meetings division. Jack Haley is the perfect person for this assignment. In his 30-year Army career, he proved to have the leadership skills to lead a team, the openness to new ideas and the ability to adapt on the run. Those skills will serve him and AUSA well in this new, important assignment."

McQuiston, who has known Haley for many years and served with him in multiple assignments, hailed his appointment as "great news."

"He is a warm, caring and inclusive leader, he knows a lot about supporting multiple organizations simultaneously, and he knows how to work hard and have fun," McQuiston said.

AUSAExtra

Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier

Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret.
President and CEO, AUSA

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.
Vice President, Education, AUSA

Luc Dunn
Editor

Desiree Hurlocker
Advertising Manager

Advertising Information Contact:

Fox Associates Inc.
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 800-440-0231
Email: adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com

ARTICLES. Articles appearing in AUSA Extra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the officers or members of the Council of Trustees of AUSA, or its editors. Articles are expressions of personal opinion and should not be interpreted as reflecting the official opinion of the Department of Defense nor of any branch, command, installation or agency of the Department of Defense. The publication assumes no responsibility for any unsolicited material. Email: extra@ausa.org

ADVERTISING. Neither AUSA Extra, nor its publisher, the Association of the United States Army, makes any representations, warranties or endorsements as to the truth and accuracy of the advertisements appearing herein, and no such representations, warranties or endorsements should be implied or inferred from the appearance of the advertisements in the publication. The advertisers are solely responsible for the contents of such advertisements.

SPECIAL RATES. Individual membership fees payable in advance are \$30 for two years, \$50 for five years, and \$400 for Life Membership. A discounted rate of \$10 for two years is available to members in the ranks of E-1 through E-4, and for service academy and ROTC cadets and OCS candidates. More information is available at our website www.ausa.org; or by emailing membersupport@ausa.org, phoning 855-246-6269, or mailing Fulfillment Manager, P.O. Box 101560, Arlington, VA 22210-0860.

PERK OF THE WEEK

WALT DISNEY WORLD

Members have exclusive entertainment discounts at theme parks like Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, Six Flags, water parks across the country, and much more. Visit www.ausa.org/entertain to explore the offerings. Choose "search by city" to plan your itinerary with discounts on tours, museums, biking and virtual events. There's something for everyone. For a limited time, receive an additional \$30 off your purchase.

Army leaders seek consistent funding from Congress

While Army leaders continue to plead for consistent, predictable and sustained funding to support the service's ongoing transformation efforts, the House Appropriations Committee has prepared a draft 2022 defense funding bill that follows the Biden administration's plan of slight reductions in Army troop levels and modest increases in training, operations and maintenance funding.

The draft bill unveiled Tuesday, prepared by the appropriations subcommittee on defense, funds the upgrade of 187 Stryker combat vehicles and 70 Abrams tanks and the production of 23 Mobile Protected Firepower systems. It also adds an extra \$100 million to the Biden administration budget to modernize National Guard vehicles and fully funds Army funding requests for long-range hypersonic weapons and the extended range can-



Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville briefs reporters at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. (DOD/LISA FERDINANDO)

non, two top modernization priorities.

Work on the 2022 defense budget won't be wrapped up before late September, at the earliest, and could extend beyond the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year.

Army Secretary Christine Wor-

muth and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville on Tuesday urged the House Armed Services Committee to provide full support for a dramatic modernization effort that prepares the force for future warfare. Their request comes as the Army faces a \$3.6 billion reduction in 2022 from the current budget and a more than \$4 billion list of unfunded priorities.

The Army is a global leader today in new technology, an enduring and reliable partner and facing future wars that involve all domains, Wormuth said. "Our Army is in great shape, but there is important work ahead," she said.

McConville cautioned that the budget reductions for 2022 are problematic. "We are keeping a basic level of readiness," he said. "We do not want to go back to where we were a couple years ago."



THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Your Future Starts Here.

GW's Homeland Security bachelor's degree completion program is designed for working professionals like you with online classes that fit your schedule. Accepting applications today!

Visit cps.gwu.edu/homeland-security for more info or you can schedule a meeting with a program representative calendly.com/jwmiller

Test prep discounts, student loan help for AUSA members

By Susan Rubel

Do you have kids or grandkids who are ready for college? The Association of the U.S. Army has a variety of ways to help.

Through AUSA's affinity relationship with eKnowledge, members get substantial savings on comprehensive test prep materials.

The programs are endorsed by the National Federation of High Schools and include:

- Personalized study plans based on a diagnostic exam.
- Real-time score projections.
- Student progress tracking.
- Up to 400 hours of student class work.
- Up to 150 hours of detailed video explanations.
- Up to 950 multimedia or video lessons.
- Automatically graded progress tests/quizzes with detailed answers.
- Practice and drill questions.

Some programs also include a math supplement, e-books, additional stand-alone vocabulary video classes, 800 SAT/ACT vocabulary words, flash cards and more.

Member Benefits

AUSA members pay just \$14.99 for the \$350 standard course.

The \$750 premium course is only \$39.99, and for a limited time, members pay just \$49.99 for the \$1,500 super course.

Student loans discounts

AUSA recently partnered with College Ave Student Loans to provide members a 0.25% interest rate discount on in-school loans and 0.5% on the loan amount paid back to the borrower on all refinanced loans.

The application takes only a few minutes to complete, there are no origination or prepayment fees, and decisions are instant.

The 0.25% interest rate reduction applies to in-school loans that are opened through the AUSA member



With your AUSA membership, you can save on SAT/ACT preparation materials, reduce your student loans and earn scholarships. (STOCK PHOTO)

benefits portal. The discount will be applied to your loan account after the initial disbursement occurs.

For refinancing, an amount equal to 0.5% of the initial loan balance will be credited on the borrower statement within 60 days of closing of the loan. For example, if the consolidated loan equaled \$20,000, the member benefit equals \$100 with a maximum of \$599.99.

The student loan process can be opaque and confusing. We chose College Ave because its process is straightforward, quick and transparent. The true cost of borrowing is summarized for students and parents.

Many reputable organizations give College Ave top ratings, including:

- NerdWallet—2020 Best Student Loan for Private Loans and Best Student Loan for Parent Loans.

- Forbes Magazine—Best Private Student Loans of 2021, Best Parent Student Loan, Best International Student Loan, Best Graduate Student Loan, Best Medical School Loan, Best Nursing School Loan and Best Low Interest Student Loans.

College Ave has also created videos to help you understand your options for paying for school and the student loan process. Examples include:

- “How to Pay for College”
- “Student Loans 101”
- “A Guide to Filling Out the FAFSA”
- “Understanding Financial Aid Letters”

Whether you need a loan to pay for school or to refinance existing loans after graduation, College Ave has options. For more information, visit www.ausa.org/studentloans.

AUSA scholarships

The scholarship application period for 2021 ended last week but keep this members-only benefit in mind for next year.

AUSA awards more than \$325,000 in scholarships for a variety of groups and subjects. We even have money available to help with student loan debt after graduation.

Visit www.ausa.org/scholarships for more information.

Susan Rubel is AUSA's Insurance and Affinity Programs Director.

AUSA chapters commemorate Army's 246th birthday

Association of the U.S. Army chapters marked the Army's 246th birthday June 14 with celebrations across the country.

In Alabama, the association's Redstone-Huntsville chapter hosted an event at Ditto Landing, where members welcomed a new president, Rhonda Sutton, and presented awards to chapter members.

Lt. Gen. Neil Thurgood, director of hypersonics, directed energy, space and rapid acquisition in the office of the assistant Army secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology, delivered remarks.

"[AUSA] does so much for our soldiers. Every day, this organization both locally and nationally makes a huge difference," Thurgood said, according to the *Redstone Rocket*. "I've got to tell you, having been around the Army for 36 years now, I've seen this organization change the lives of families."

Thurgood praised all veterans "who proudly wore the uniform of the armed forces and bravely defended this great freedom that we enjoy."

Regardless of when those men and women served, during peacetime or conflict, "they represented the best that America had to offer," he said.

The traditional Army birthday cake was cut by Thurgood; Natalie



At an Army birthday celebration, from left to right, Rhonda Sutton, AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter president; chapter member Bob Whiteford; Lt. Gen. Neil Thurgood; Natalie Cox; and AUSA's Third Region President Bruce Fletcher cut the cake. (AUSA PHOTO)

Cox, a Sparkman High School graduate who is attending Army basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Bruce Fletcher, AUSA Third Region president; and chapter member Bob Whiteford.

AUSA's Braxton Bragg chapter in Fayetteville, North Carolina, partnered with the state's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and local governments to organize a ceremony at Segra Stadium featuring Col. Scott Pence, Fort Bragg's garrison commander.

"In North Carolina—home to Fort Bragg, the largest U.S. Army base by population—we honor our soldiers and Army civilians, including those service members who made the ultimate sacrifice, and their families. It is because of their steadfast determination the Army will proudly celebrate many more birthdays in the future—and we will stand proudly by their side," said Ariel Aponte, the chapter president.

Another celebration was hosted by AUSA's Monmouth chapter at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Redford, New Jersey. Remarks were made by Col. Lisa Hou, the state's adjutant general and commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

From the cake-cutting to the Army song to the awards ceremony, "the evening was truly memorable made possible by all the attendees," the chapter said in a Facebook post.

In the tri-state area of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, AUSA's Maj. Samuel Woodfill chapter celebrated the Army's birthday by partnering with the Servatii Pastry Shop in Cincinnati to deliver cupcakes to local recruiting stations.



Members of AUSA's Maj. Samuel Woodfill chapter in Ohio celebrated the Army's birthday by delivering cupcakes to local Army recruiting stations. (AUSA PHOTO)



WELCOME BACK

AUSA welcomes you back with new lower rates.

2-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

~~\$40~~ **\$30**

5-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

~~\$75~~ **\$50**

LEARN MORE @ WWW.AUSA.ORG/WELCOMEBACK



**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Educate | Inform | Connect

Photo Courtesy of the National Guard. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement.