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Fueling the troops



Sgt. Rockson Owusu, from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, prepares breakfast in the field for hundreds of soldiers Sept. 9 during Exercise Saber Junction 23 at Hohenfels, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. SHANE KILLEEN)

AUSA announces scholarship winners

The Association of the U.S. Army is announcing the award of its national scholarships for 2023 valued at almost \$330,000.

Forty-one scholarships are being awarded to AUSA Premium members.

Three full-ride scholarships are awarded for Trident University, an accredited online institution offering bachelor's and master's degrees that gives credit for leadership and professional experience. Each scholarship is valued at \$48,000.

The recipients are Tavia Smith, Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Smith and Angela Hall.

Tavia Smith is an AUSA member who wants to be a medical lab technician. "I am the youngest and will be the first in my family to attend college," she wrote in her application.

"This scholarship would make my dream of getting a degree in medical lab technology possible."

Nicholas Smith, an NCO in the Army National Guard and a junior at Purdue Global University studying computer science, plans to pursue a career in cybersecurity. "I am committed to working hard and taking advantage of every opportunity to achieve my academic and professional goals," he wrote in his application. "With your support, I would be able to pursue my goals with greater focus and determination and build a strong foundation for my future success."

Hall, who is married to an Army veteran who served for more than 22 years, is pursuing a doctorate in education.

"As a wife, a mother of twin boys

and a part-time teacher, I must juggle these roles and do all of them well at the same time," she wrote in her application. "This scholarship would not only alleviate the financial burden on me and my family but also enable me to focus more fully on my academic pursuits and extracurricular activities."

Vuono, Medical Scholarships

A new GEN Carl E. Vuono Leadership Scholarship, worth \$25,000, honors the former Army chief of staff who served on AUSA's Board of Directors for 20 years.

The recipient of the inaugural Vuono Scholarship is 1st Lt. Morgan Mulligan, who serves in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Mulligan is

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Senators honored by AUSA for Army, veteran support

A pair of leading members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee have been awarded the Association of the U.S. Army's 2023 Legislator of the Year award for their staunch and effective support of the Army and soldiers, veterans and their families.

Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat from Montana, and Republican Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas were honored on Capitol Hill by AUSA President and CEO retired Gen. Bob Brown.

"AUSA is pleased to recognize Sen. Jon Tester and Sen. Jerry Moran as our Legislators of the Year," Brown said. "These senators have long distinguished themselves through their bipartisan leadership and support for the Total Army. They have shown steadfast commitment to our men and women in uniform as well as our veterans and their families."

Tester is chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Moran is the ranking member. Both senators also serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee, with Tester chairing the defense subcommittee and Moran serving as a member of the subcommittee.

"AUSA is honored to recognize Sen.



Retired Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, left, AUSA's vice president for Leadership and Education, and retired Gen. Bob Brown, right, AUSA president and CEO, present Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas with the association's 2023 Legislator of the Year award. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Tester and Sen. Moran for their record of getting results for those who wear the cloth of our nation and commitment to working together for the good of those who have sacrificed so much," Brown said.

AUSA's Legislator of the Year award is an apolitical and nonpartisan award designed to recognize congressional leaders who have made

significant contributions to and provided substantial support for the Total Army—Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve—as well as Army civilians, families, survivors, caregivers and veterans.

This is the second time the award has been presented since 2013, even though AUSA began recognizing congressional leaders more than two decades ago.

"American service members put their lives on the line every day to protect our country, and they deserve our unwavering support and gratitude," Tester said. "I am humbled to have been named Legislator of the Year by the Association of the U.S. Army, and I will always back the brave men and women who answer the call to protect this nation and defend our freedoms."

In a statement, Moran said, "AUSA has been a significant partner in supporting the work on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and teaching young people about the importance of serving in the military. I am honored to receive the Legislator of the Year Award and am grateful for the work accomplished to aid our veterans and service members."



Retired Gen. Bob Brown, left, AUSA president and CEO, presents Sen. Jon Tester of Montana with the association's 2023 Legislator of the Year award. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Wormuth, George headline upcoming Strategic Landpower Dialogue



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, left, speaks with a soldier assigned to the 1st Infantry Division during an Aug. 30 visit to Fort Riley, Kansas. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. CHARLES LEITNER)

The Association of the U.S. Army is joining the Center for Strategic and International Studies in presenting a discussion with Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George.

The Sept. 19 event is the first of the Strategic Landpower Dialogue, a public, on-the-record speaker series on security issues hosted by CSIS and AUSA.

The inaugural event with Wormuth and George will take place 10–11:15 a.m. Eastern Sept. 19 at CSIS headquarters, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW in Washington, D.C. It also will be livestreamed on the CSIS YouTube channel. To attend in-person or online, you must register here.

Wormuth and George will discuss the strategic role of land power, including the U.S. Army's transformation for multidomain operations, implications of the war in Ukraine, the service's role in the Indo-Pacific, and recruiting and retention.

The Strategic Landpower Dialogue events, sponsored by General Dynamics, will serve as a unique source of insights into the current think-

ing and future challenges for land forces in a rapidly evolving security environment while highlighting the Army's strategic role in U.S. national defense.

"The Association of the U.S. Army is excited to partner with an organization as respected as CSIS to launch the Strategic Landpower Dialogue for what we believe will be an essential forum shaping the discussion on the critical role of land power to U.S. national defense," said retired Gen. Bob Brown, AUSA's president and CEO.

"The United States will only prevail in the future fight with a U.S. Army capable of providing overmatch in land warfare as part of a joint force that integrates combat power across all warfighting domains," Brown said. "Given that in Ukraine, we see the largest land war in Europe since World War II, it is a critical time to discuss these issues."

Wormuth has been the Army's top civilian leader since May 2021. George, the Army vice chief of staff since August 2022, has been nominated to be the service's next chief of staff. His nomination is pending Senate confirmation.

AUSAExtra

*Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

All AUSA members have access to a program that provides free legal documents—both personal and for small businesses. Visit www.ausa.org/legal and create an account. Choose from a variety of documents like wills, trusts, powers of attorney, bills of sale, creating an LLC, privacy language for your website and more.

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Scholarships*From Page 1*

pursuing a master's in business administration with a focus on technology management at the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. "Receiving this scholarship would not only improve my personal financial situation, but it would uplift and ease the burden on my entire family," Mulligan wrote when applying for the scholarship.

Another new scholarship this year is sponsored by the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium, a non-profit biomedical consortium that collaborates with the Army Medical Research and Development Command.

This \$10,000 scholarship is awarded to Sgt. Elizabeth Hernandez. A member of the Army National Guard, Hernandez recently completed the certification needed to become a paramedic, and she is looking to earn a

master's in physician assistant studies from Southern Illinois University. "I always believed that knowledge is key to success," she wrote in her application. "Financial assistance would help me achieve my goals to continue seeking knowledge."

Van Autreve Scholarships

Eight SMA Leon Van Autreve Scholarships are awarded in honor of the former sergeant major of the Army who died in 2002.

A \$25,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to Staff Sgt. Adam Godfrey, who has served in Afghanistan and is assigned to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. Godfrey, who has been accepted into the Institute of World Politics' master's program in statecraft and international affairs, plans to enter the Army's Green to Gold program and become an intelligence officer. He also is working on a master's in intel-

ligence management at the University of Maryland Global Campus.

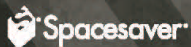
"I am uncertain where I may end up career wise, however I do know I would like to have a positive impact on my community and country," Godfrey wrote in his application.

A \$10,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to Capt. James Moeller, who is preparing to complete his service in uniform and plans to pursue a master's in business administration at the Yale School of Management in Connecticut.

"My short-term career goal is to become an investment banking associate working in mergers and acquisitions," he wrote in his application. "I am confident that I can truly have an impact in this field."

A \$5,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to Erica Moore, who served in the Navy for eight years as a hospital corpsman and is married to

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Scholarships

From Page 5

an Army veteran. Moore is pursuing a bachelor's in nursing science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. "Even though I have the basis for a career in health care, it is just that, an entry-level position," Moore wrote in her application. "These positions do not provide appropriately for my family and our future. ... A scholarship would elevate financial stress, improve my focus at school, and balance my family life."

Five Van Autreve scholarships of \$2,000 each also are awarded. The recipients are Jazz'Myn McKenzie, a military family member who is preparing to study film and media arts at Chapman University in California; Illinois National Guard Pfc. Jordan Hazelman, who is majoring in elementary education at East Carolina University; Dominick Lind, a military family member who plans



AUSA scholarships help soldiers, veterans and family members improve their education. (U.S. ARMY/CAPT. KATHERINE ALEGADO)

to study computer science at Colorado State University; Alice Pickett, a military family member who plans to study nursing at Purdue University

in Indiana; and Katherine Pane, who is studying mechanical engineering at Harvard University in Massachusetts.

Cribbins, Chabreja, Merritt Scholarships

Two Joseph P. and Helen T. Cribbins Scholarships of \$10,000 each are awarded to students completing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. The Cribbinses were longtime supporters of AUSA and the Army.

The recipients are Robert Gudz, an Army ROTC cadet at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania who plans to become an infantry officer and pursue a career in special operations, and Christopher Ward, an Army brat and recent high school graduate who plans to pursue a software engineering degree at Arizona State University.

Six Nicholas D. Chabreja Scholarships of \$5,000 each are also awarded for science, technology, engineering



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and math, named for a former AUSA Council of Trustees chairman.

The recipients are Nathan Mayotte, an Army veteran who wants to pursue a master's in economics at the University of Texas at El Paso; National Guard Sgt. Alyce Harlan, who is studying computer science at Oregon State University Online; Alyssa Saner, an AUSA member and student at Northern Kentucky University who aspires to become a physical therapist; Angelica Gonzalez Grado, a military family member pursuing a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Victoria Stuart, a military family member who is studying to become a physician assistant at Trevecca Nazarene University in Tennessee; and Army Reserve 2nd Lt. Sarah Middleton, a student at Midwestern University in Illinois who is studying to become a dentist and hopes to serve in the Regular Army.

Two Gen. Jack N. Merritt Scholarships, each \$5,000, are awarded in the name of the former AUSA president.

Gregory Mowle, an ROTC cadet at Rutgers University in New Jersey who is pursuing a master's in social work and wants to become a military social worker, and Margaret Henderson, a military family member who has been accepted into the Army ROTC program at Virginia Tech and plans to study international relations and serve as an Army officer, are the 2023 recipients.

Completed Coursework and Delta Dental

Eight Completed Coursework scholarships, each worth \$2,500, are awarded to help with debt from recent completion of college courses or professional certifications.

Recipients include Haven Habhab, a military family member who is studying criminal justice at Old Dominion University in Virginia and aspires to work for the FBI; Alexandria Gonzalez, a military family member studying business, fine arts and graphic design at Saint Leo University in Florida; Shelby Goodman Jr., a



Auburn University ROTC cadets strap in for an orientation flight in a Black Hawk helicopter during a visit to Fort Rucker—now Fort Novosel—in Alabama. (U.S. ARMY/KELLY MORRIS)

military family member who wants to study animation and graphic technology at Arizona State University; and Brenda Schannep, a military spouse who recently completed a bachelor's in sports management from Grand Canyon University in Arizona.

The remaining recipients are Army National Guard Cpl. Domenick Bartoletti, a combat medic who is studying to become a doctor at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Ohio; Angela Hall, who is also a recipient of a Trident University award; Clayton Ulm, a military family member who plans to pursue a doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Micah Pate, military family member studying for a bachelor's in visual effects at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

Ten Delta Dental scholarships, each \$2,000, are awarded to applicants pursuing health and wellness training, including dentistry, nursing, home health care or caregiver training.

Recipients include Joshua Brower, a military family member studying mechanical engineering at Liberty University in Virginia; Bianca Litavec, a military family member majoring in biomedical sciences at Auburn University in Alabama with

plans to become a pediatric physical therapist; Jacqueline Boyanchek, an AUSA member who is studying neuroscience at Rhodes College in Tennessee; Parker Wilkinson, a military family member studying biology at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee who aspires to become a dentist; and Sarah Middleton, the Army Reserve second lieutenant who also is receiving a Nicholas D. Chabraja Scholarship to pursue her goal of becoming a dentist.

The other recipients are Madeleine Morgado, a military family member who is studying health sciences and psychology at Northeastern University in Massachusetts with the goal of becoming a physical therapist; Mark Mosser, an Army ROTC cadet studying mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who wants to serve as an Army chaplain; DeVincent McFarlin, an Army veteran studying organizational and industrial psychology at Grand Canyon University; Ryan Dukes, a military family member studying mechanical engineering at North Carolina State University; and Christina Herbert, a military family member studying occupational therapy at Methodist University in North Carolina.

For more information on AUSA's scholarship program, click [here](#).

Pentagon attack first responders reunite 22 years later

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, the Honor Guard Company of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) was preparing for a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

But that mission never took place. American Airlines Flight 77, hijacked by al-Qaida terrorists, crashed into the Pentagon.

The soldiers of the Honor Guard Company and I exchanged our ceremonial uniforms for Tyvek suits, respirators and protective gear. We worked alongside the FBI and search-and-rescue teams for 12 days inside the burning, smoking Pentagon.

It was a dangerous and emotionally exhausting mission, but it brought out the best in the soldiers. The Pentagon was on fire for several days and flooded from the fire suppression system. These soldiers desperately searched for survivors despite the heat and smoke, unstable walls and ceilings and the unknown threat. No one knew at the time if the 9/11 attack was the first in a series of attacks on the American homeland.

With the precision and discipline that are hallmarks of the Old Guard, the soldiers also helped remove the fallen so they could be identified and laid to rest with honor.



Former soldiers from the Honor Guard Company of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) who responded to the Pentagon after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, reunite 22 years later at their old company barracks. (AUSA PHOTO)

At the end of the recovery mission, the Honor Guard Company soldiers changed back into their ceremonial blue uniforms and buried many of the people they had recovered from the rubble. The events of September 2001 impacted every member of the unit, and, for many, it left questions and unseen scars.

Then-Pfc. James Settles—now a major on the Pentagon's Joint Staff—organized the inaugural Honor Guard Company reunion this year to reflect on those we lost on 9/11 and the self-

less and exceptional service of the Pentagon first responders. This reunion was a cathartic experience, as most of those in attendance had never seen the rebuilt Pentagon E ring or the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

The current leaders of the Old Guard supported this reunion with guided tours at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a return to the old company barracks and opportunities to visit three of our fallen comrades who are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sgt. John Trotter was killed in Ramadi, Iraq, on Nov. 9, 2004. Cpl. William Long died in Baqubah, Iraq, on June 18, 2005. These former company mates and American heroes are buried adjacent to each other in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery. A third Honor Guard soldier, Sgt. Matthew Rowan, is interred in the cemetery's columbarium.

This reunion, 22 years later, gave us an opportunity to reflect on our service with John, William and Matthew and our love for each other.

Never forget.

Retired Col. Scott Halstead is AUSA's Center for Leadership director.



Left: Soldiers who responded to the Pentagon after the 9/11 terrorist attacks gather Monday outside the building at the point of impact of American Airlines Flight 77.



Right: Lt. Gen. Ronald Clark, center, senior military assistant to the defense secretary, thanks the former Honor Guard Company soldiers for their service. (AUSA PHOTOS)

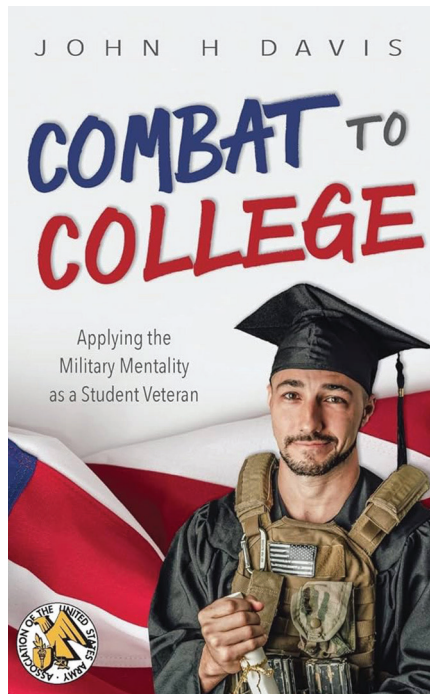
Author, combat veteran shares tips for success in college

As a combat veteran and Harvard University graduate, John Davis understands firsthand the joys and difficulties veterans experience when they transition to college after the military.

“That first year when veterans get out of the military is really one of the most important years of their lives,” said Davis, a former infantry squad leader in the 101st Airborne Division and the author of *Combat to College: Applying the Military Mentality as a Student Veteran*. “That’s when they’re going to set up and develop habits, develop good routines and have the opportunity to spiral upwards in life, but ... you also have the challenges of any transition.”

Speaking Sept. 7 during an Association of the U.S. Army Noon Report webinar, Davis emphasized that veterans have qualities that give them an educational edge.

“Veterans have so many strengths ... when it comes to education, such



as commitment. We really understand [commitment] in a way that civilians kind of struggle to,” he said.

Veterans also understand that “what makes them successful is repetition,” he said. “A successful military career ... [is] a slow process. It’s day in and day out of proving yourself year after year, and that’s kind of what education is.”

When adapting to the culture of higher education, some aspects of military culture may not transfer well, Davis said. “Military people tend to be very blunt when it comes to conversations, not afraid about offending people and not afraid of dark humor or sarcasm. Some of those things are not really acceptable in corporate culture or education,” he said.

Education after the military is an “underused” opportunity that more veterans “should take advantage of,” Davis said. “I think that if we can convince more veterans to go to college, and we can get them through to graduation, that we’re going to see a big jump in the veteran community’s quality of life,” he said.

Longtime member of AUSA advisory board dies at 83

Retired Lt. Gen. Charles “Chuck” Dominy, a longtime member of the Association of the U.S. Army’s Advisory Board of Directors and chairman of AUSA’s National Awards committee, died Sept. 1. He was 83.

Dominy served on AUSA’s Advisory Board of Directors from 1996–2020 and was chairman of the association’s National Awards committee for most of that time. The committee convenes each year to select the recipient of the George Catlett Marshall Medal, AUSA’s highest award, and other national awards that are presented at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition.

Born June 4, 1940, Dominy graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1962. During his 33 years in uniform, Dominy’s assignments included commander of

the Army Corps of Engineers’ Savannah Engineer District, commanding general of the Corps of Engineers’ Missouri River Engineer Division and chief legislative liaison in the office of the secretary of the Army.

Dominy’s career culminated with his service as director of the Army Staff. After retiring from the Army, he served as vice president of government affairs for IAP Worldwide Services Inc. and joined the Virginia Military Institute’s Board of Visitors in 2016.

“The nation has a real treasure in the all-volunteer Army. They owe so much to every soldier, whether in the continental United States or deployed abroad. We must give them the best support possible,” Dominy said in an IAP interview during the 2012 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, D.C.



Lt. Gen. Charles Dominy. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: AAAA

Formed in 1957 by a group of senior Army aviation officers, the Army Aviation Association of America is dedicated to representing and supporting the interests of soldiers and families in the aviation branch.

The association hosts several events annually across the country that serve as professional development and networking opportunities for the Army Aviation community and the defense industry. It also publishes *ARMYAVIATION* magazine, featuring articles written by senior Army leaders, the aviation branch chief and the service's pilots, maintainers, trainers and developers, according to the group's website.

In 1963, the association established its Scholarship Foundation to provide financial aid to children of current and deceased members.



The program has since expanded to include soldiers, spouses, unmarried siblings and grandchildren, and it has provided over \$9 million in aid to more than 6,000 applicants, according to the foundation.

A variety of awards are presented by the association to recognize the service of soldiers, veterans, govern-

ment civilians, cadets, family members and defense industry representatives in the aviation community. These include the Order of Saint Michael, established in 1990 to honor service members who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army Aviation, and the Order of Our Lady of Loreto, created in 2004 as a joint effort with the U.S. Army Aviation Center to honor spouses and other family members.

For more information, please visit www.quad-a.org/.

If your association is interested in partnering with AUSA, contact Susan Rubel at srubel@ausa.org.

Association Partnership with AUSA is an opportunity for like-minded military service organizations to join AUSA in support of the Total Army—soldiers, DoD civilians and their families.

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Foundation provides care, services for wounded veterans

The Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate kicked off the month of September by supporting an incredible program aimed at providing care and services for wounded veterans.

We were afforded the opportunity to travel to beautiful Mount Vernon, Maine, just a short drive from the state's capital of Augusta. Nestled in the picturesque countryside is a lakeside retreat that is home to the Travis Mills Foundation, run by retired Staff Sgt. Travis Mills and his wife, Kelsey.

NCO & Soldier Programs

Mills served in the 82nd Airborne Division and deployed to Afghanistan three times. On April 10, 2012, during his third tour, Mills was wounded by an improvised explosive device during a patrol. The explosion severed portions of all four of his limbs and left him as one of only five surviving quadruple amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, family was a crucial component to Mills' healing. During his long recovery, he maintained his lifelong mantra of "Never Give Up. Never Quit."

To this day, Mills credits his family for being the driving force behind his positivity and persistence to overcome challenges.

After his recovery, Travis attended an adaptive sports camp in Colorado and realized the need for a place where veterans and their families could recuperate.

In September 2013, Mills and his wife founded the Travis Mills Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed to benefit and assist post-9/11 veterans who have been wounded on active duty or during service to the nation.

The foundation offers several programs for veterans and their families. Participants receive an all-



From left to right, retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West, retired Staff Sgt. Travis Mills, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey and retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Jason Vanderhaden pose for a photo at the Travis Mills Foundation in Mount Vernon, Maine. (AUSA PHOTO)

expenses-paid experience at the lakeside retreat in Mount Vernon, where they engage in adaptive activities, bond with other veterans and their families and enjoy much-needed rest and relaxation.

To date, the foundation has helped hundreds of wounded warriors and their families with their recovery.

During our visit, we got a firsthand look at the facilities and services provided by the foundation's incredible staff. Along with being treated to top-notch accommoda-

tions, participants and their families receive tailored services that are carefully and thoughtfully developed in response to each person's needs.

At the conclusion of our visit on Sept. 9, we participated in the third annual Building Strength Gala. The gala is one of several events the Travis Mills Foundation hosts each year to raise the resources necessary to sustain the retreat.

The gala also offers those who have not visited the foundation an opportunity to take in the world-class services Mills and his team provide.

AUSA's NCO and Soldier Programs team would like to thank the Travis Mills Foundation for all they do for veterans and their families and for the incredible opportunity to visit the retreat.

For more information about the Travis Mills Foundation or to learn about how to get involved, please visit <https://travismillsfoundation.org/>



The Travis Mills Foundation lakeside retreat in Mount Vernon, Maine, houses wounded veterans and their families as they recuperate. (AUSA PHOTO)

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.

Chapter meeting highlights service of Vietnam aviators

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's Fort Novosel-Wiregrass chapter recognized the monumental contributions of Army helicopter pilots and aircrews to the Vietnam War at a recent quarterly meeting.

"We want to support the families and friends of soldiers who have given the ultimate [sacrifice] in support of freedom around the world and to inspire young people to consider

Fort Novosel-Wiregrass

aviation as a career," said retired Lt. Col. John Holladay, an AUSA chapter member who also is president of the nonprofit Friends of Army Aviation.

"We are here to serve Army Aviation and very proud to do it with honor and dignity. We always strive for the best, and that focus starts at the top," Holladay said during the meeting at the Ozark Civic Center in Alabama, according to the *Dothan Eagle*.

Fort Novosel, formerly known as Fort Rucker, is the home of Army Aviation and the Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

Friends of Army Aviation seeks to preserve Army aviation heritage through static displays of legacy aircraft and by providing helicopter rides to some 30,000 people since the program's inception in 2017, Hol-



Retired Maj. Gen. Lou Hennies, left, chairman of the board for the nonprofit Friends of Army Aviation, and retired Lt. Col. John Holladay, the organization's president, stand by a heritage UH-1 Huey helicopter on display at the Ozark Civic Center during a quarterly meeting of AUSA's Fort Novosel-Wiregrass chapter in Alabama. (DOTHAN EAGLE/MICHELLE MANN)

laday said, according to the *Dothan Eagle*. "We bring the Army Aviation story to the American people," he said, noting that in 2022, the Friends of Army Aviation flew 6,800 passengers at multiple venues and airshows across the country.

Holladay, who served three combat tours in Vietnam as an Army avia-

tor, emphasized the importance of remembering the role of helicopter pilots and aircrews in the war that ended a half-century ago. "As time and distance accumulates, the legacy of the contributions of the American soldier fades into distant memory," he said.

The heritage helicopter rides in restored UH-1 Huey helicopters cost the organization \$2,100 an hour. This necessitates a charge for riders, but the cost is offset by donations. "Every penny we generate goes back into the preservation and operation of this aircraft," Holladay said.

"Our passion is to convey the importance of Army Aviation and to remember the role it played by providing troops with the support needed to achieve their mission and to ensure their survival on the battlefield," Holladay said, according to the *Dothan Eagle*. "It's an honor to tell you the story."

Community Partner Challenge

The following chapters are the August winners of AUSA's Community Partner Challenge in their award categories. Each winner receives \$500 and 5 points toward Best Chapter in their group.

- Redstone-Huntsville – Award Group 1
- Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon – Award Group 2
- Northern New York-Fort Drum – Award Group 3
- San Diego – Award Group 4
- Utah – Award Group 5



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