



The Association of the U.S. Army's 2020 virtual annual meeting, AUSA Now, will feature many senior Army and defense leaders. (U.S. ARMY/1ST LT. STEPHANIE SNYDER)

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## AUSA Now features key leaders, forums

**B**ig speakers are lined up for the Association of the U.S. Army's 2020 virtual annual meeting, AUSA Now, which begins in just three weeks.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy will speak during the opening ceremony.

The first day of AUSA Now also will feature an afternoon initiatives forum by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston and contemporary military forums about diversity and inclusion in the Army, spurring more industrial base innovation, and readiness initiatives.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville will give a noon address.

Wednesday's schedule includes a

family forum on spouse employment, a homeland security seminar on the Army's response to COVID-19, and contemporary military forums about personnel programs, Project Convergence and the regional alignment of readiness and modernization.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, Defense Secretary Mark Esper will be the first speaker on a day that includes other major forums.

Army leaders will host a town hall meeting focused on family issues, and another forum is planned on permanent change-of-station moves.

Contemporary military forums are scheduled on talent management as well as sustainment issues, and there is a professional development forum for NCOs.

The fourth and final day of AUSA Now will be focused on AUSA regional and chapter events.

North America's premier land-power exposition also will include additional programs each day, with simultaneous streams from the virtual exhibits.

Programs include seminars for the National Guard, Army Reserve, small businesses, warrant officers, Army civilians and retired or retiring soldiers.

There will also be topical presentations from the Army's Warriors Corner and demonstrations by competitors in the Army's xTechSearch technology competition.

Registration and program details are available here.



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## Soldiers, family members awarded AUSA scholarships

**T**he Association of the U.S. Army is announcing the award of its national scholarships for 2020 valued at more than \$270,000.

Scholarships are being awarded to 47 AUSA members.

Two 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.

A Trident University scholarship is awarded to Master Sgt. Tyson Mayfield, a 10-year security forces airman in the Utah Air National Guard who is working on a master's degree. The degree would help him be "better prepared to serve my subordinates and superiors," Mayfield said, and set an example for his four daughters on the importance of education.

A Trident University scholarship is awarded to Warrant Officer Jason Memmo, an information systems technician in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard who aspires to earn a doctorate and become a researcher in the field of information systems and business. In addition to building his knowledge, "I am in a position to teach my fellow soldiers and guide my command," he said, adding that the degree would "put me on track to be able to do my current and future jobs better."

### 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 2nd Lt. Inga Mauzy, who aspires to become a veterinarian in the Army and has volunteered more than 600 hours working with animals while going to school and participating in ROTC. "It is hard to put into words how much I love working with animals," she said.

A \$10,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to Craig Birkhead-Mor-



AUSA scholarships help soldiers, veterans, family members and more achieve their academic goals. (U.S. ARMY/CPL. SHAYLIN QUAID)

ton, a military family member who is attending Yale University with the goal of pursuing a career in political science, global affairs and economics.

"As we live in an interconnected global world, politics are not just local," he wrote. Gaining an education will help him "be a change-agent to change the local community at possibly the national level," he said.

A \$5,000 Van Autreve scholarship is awarded to 1st Lt. Mahdi Al-Husseini, an Army aviator who is pursuing a master's in electrical engineering at Columbia University.

In addition to being a finalist in the third round of the Army's xTechSearch competition, Al-Husseini plans to eventually earn a doctorate and pursue a professorship at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

"Throughout my career, I hope to continue solving challenging problems by inventing operationally viable electromechanical equipment," he said.

Five Van Autreve scholarships of \$2,000 each also are awarded.

The recipients are Ryan Dukes, a military family member who is preparing to attend college and pursue a career as an engineer; Capt. Carolyn Grigsby, a West Point graduate who is transitioning out of the Army and plans to pursue a master's in comput-

er science while working full-time to support her family; Abdiel Hernandez-Lopez, an Army family member who is pursuing a career in aerospace engineering and hopes to one day be an astronaut; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marc Losito, who is working on a master's in public policy from Duke University; and Capt. Isaac Melnick, an Army Reserve engineer officer who is pursuing a master's in business administration.

### Cribbins, Chabraja and 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 Jeremy Gries, the son of two soldiers who is studying exercise science so he can pursue a career in sports medicine, and Ashley Pearson, who also is from a family where both parents served in the Army and aspires to be a military doctor.

Six Nicholas D. Chabraja Scholarships of \$5,000 each are also awarded for science, technology, engineering and math, named for a former AUSA Council of Trustees chairman.

See **Scholarships**, Page 6

## Lawmakers pass bill awarding Gold Medal to famed Merrill's Marauders



Retired Master Sgt. Gilbert Howland, left, and former Staff Sgt. Robert Passanisi. (AUSA PHOTO)

**T**he Army's Merrill's Marauders are one step closer to receiving the Congressional Gold Medal after the House of Representatives passed legislation in support of the famed World War II soldiers.

Supported by the Association of the U.S. Army, the bill recognizes members of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), who became known as Merrill's Marauders after their commander, Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill.

The legislation passed the U.S. Senate late last year and was cleared by the House on Tuesday. It now goes to the White House for the president's signature.

Merrill's Marauders displayed "extraordinary efforts and sacrifices during World War II," retired Gen. Carter Ham, AUSA president and CEO wrote in a December letter to the co-chairmen of the House Army Caucus. "The volunteers were considered expendable and not expected to survive their mission in the China-Burma-India Theater, today called the 'forgotten theater' of World War II."

Surviving Marauders were excited to hear the latest news.

"I feel like I'm floating on air. I'm thrilled beyond words," former Staff Sgt. Robert Passanisi, 96, said from his home in Lindenhurst, New York, shortly after the legislation passed.

Passanisi, the Marauders' historian, is one of only eight still living out of

almost 3,000 infantrymen who volunteered for an unknown "dangerous and hazardous" mission in 1943.

That mission was to disrupt Japanese supply lines and communications in Burma, now known as Myanmar, and capture the Japanese-held airfield in Myitkyina.

Carrying only what they could pack on their backs and mules, they defeated the much larger and better equipped Japanese 18th division in five major battles and 30 minor engagements.

They walked farther than any WWII fighting force—almost 1,000 miles—to complete their mission of seizing the Myitkyina airstrip. After battling not only the enemy but malaria, mite typhus, dysentery, monsoons and isolation, only about 200 "walking skeletons" were capable of combat when they reached the airfield.

"We came together with one single mindset—to accomplish the impossible," Passanisi said. "My one regret is that only eight of us are alive to enjoy this historic honor."

Retired Master Sgt. Gilbert Howland, 96, and Passanisi visited Capitol Hill multiple times to gain support from lawmakers. "It is a great honor for me and our unit," Howland said. "I fought in WWII, in Korea in the Pork Chop Hill sector and did two combat tours in Vietnam. But the worse fighting I experienced was in Burma with Merrill's Marauders."

# AUSAExtra

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### PERK OF THE WEEK

AUSA members get 20% off (25% off bulk) at Authentically American, a provider of premium, competitively priced apparel that is all made in the USA. Visit [www.ausa.org/aa](http://www.ausa.org/aa) to see button downs, polos, baseball tees and more, including this innovative "Sweat Tee" that shows a hidden message once you put in the work and get it sweaty enough to be revealed.





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## Scholarships

From Page 3

The recipients are Victoria Chevallier, an Army family member who plans to study computer science at the University of Texas at Austin; Cutter Clayton-Delgado, an Army family member and recent high school graduate who is studying civil engineering at North Carolina State University; Emily Graham, a military family member who is completing a degree in mathematics at Clemson University and aspires to be an actuary; Levi Jackson, a military spouse who is working to become a veterinarian in the Army; David McDonough, whose father and two brothers served or continue to serve in the Army and who is working to become a high school chemistry teacher; and Elana Trejo, a Navy veteran who is pursuing a career in physical therapy so she can help her fellow veterans.

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

Jacob Duffer, the son of an FBI special agent who plans to pursue a degree at Baylor University in preparation to run a local church, and Donna Reynolds, who grew up in an Army family and aspires to be a foreign service officer with the State Department, are the 2020 recipients.

## Completed Coursework and more

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

Recipients include Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Bowling, a construction engineering technician in the Army Reserve who is working to advance his civilian education and advance in his career field; Ashlyn Dorn, whose father is a 26-year Army veteran and who is completing a master's degree in homeland security and counterterrorism with the goal of serving in the State Department; former Maj. Nicholas Eidemiller, who is completing a master's in business administration at the University of Pennsylvania; and Dana



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

Carraway of South Carolina.

The remaining recipients are Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Hewett, who plans to retire from the Army in 2021 and pursue a doctorate so he can continue working as a health care administrator; Capt. Samuel Oquendo-Marrero, who is pursuing a doctorate of management in organizational leadership at the University of Phoenix; Craig Sager, an ROTC cadet at Rutgers University who is studying aerospace engineering; Karolyn Smith, an Army veteran who is pursuing a doctorate of management with a concentration in homeland security; and Madison Thompson, who comes from an Army family and is studying to become a doctor.

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

Recipients include Allie Bradley, a military family member who plans to major in biology and enter the research field; Brittany Burke, who is pursuing a career in biochemistry; Theodore Cook, an Army family member who aspires to become a physical therapist; Collier Mingus, a military family member who is working toward becoming a doctor; and Lucy Pickett, the daughter of a soldier who plans to become a nurse.

The remaining recipients are Colton Piri, a military family member who aspires to eventually earn a doctorate in physical therapy; Josue Rosario, a military family member who is working on a bachelor's degree in chemistry with the goal of attending medical school and becoming an anesthesiologist; Hailey Seigny, a military fam-

ily member who is working to become a nurse; Julia Stoker, who's aiming to earn a doctorate of physical therapy and work with patients who have spinal cord injuries or need prosthetic limbs; and Victoria Stuart, a military family member whose goal is to become a physician assistant working with trauma or in an emergency room.

## New and Army scholarships

This year, for the first time, AUSA recognized two students as part of its Lt. Gen. Theodore G. Stroup Jr. Achievement Award. The program honors Stroup, a former vice president of education at AUSA, and recognizes JROTC cadets for their achievements.

Prescott Farris of Fairfax, Virginia, is this year's winner, receiving a \$1,000 award. Fernando Avila of Waldorf, Maryland, will receive a \$500 award.

AUSA also is awarding scholarships of \$4,000 each to three cadets as part of the Army's ROTC Civilian Sponsored Scholarship Program, which is overseen by Army Cadet Command.

Recipients are Troy Smith of Virginia Military Institute, Elizabeth Holan of Iowa State University, and Matthew Bleckley of the University of Tampa.

Staff Sgt. Alan Brutus is the recipient of this year's SGM Dawn Kilpatrick Memorial AUSA Scholarship, named in honor of the NCO who died after a two-year battle with cancer.

The \$4,000 award is for mid-level and senior NCOs in public affairs career fields.

Finally, 1st Sgt. Yadriana Kavitz and Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Bellmore are the recipients of this year's SGM Larry Strickland Memorial Fund and Scholarship.

Strickland, a 30-year soldier, was the sergeant major to the deputy Army chief of staff for personnel when he was killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon. The scholarships in his name are awarded annually to two NCOs, who each receive \$4,000 to help cover education costs not covered by tuition assistance.

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



## Chapter coordinates donations for returning paratroopers

The Association of the U.S. Army's Braxton Bragg chapter coordinated a large donation of food and supplies to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on Sept. 11 to mark the 19th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"The Braxton Bragg chapter stands together in paying tribute to military service members, veterans, first responders and the victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks," said retired Sgt. Maj. Shirley Draughn, chapter vice president for education and public affairs.

To encourage soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, who were returning from a deployment, and to amplify the unity and service that emerged in America after Sept. 11, 2001, the chapter kicked into high gear with Operation Boost Morale.

### Braxton Bragg



Members of the Braxton Bragg chapter assist with the donations. (AUSA PHOTO)

The chapter coordinated with Feed the Children, a leading nonprofit, to deliver more than \$89,000 worth of food, essentials and more to the Fort Bragg Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program.

The items will be delivered to paratroopers who are returning to Fort Bragg after a nine-month deployment

but must be quarantined before reuniting with their loved ones.

"Braxton Bragg truly appreciates the support and giving spirit of Feed the Children and our generous sponsors. We thank the soldiers of Fort Bragg and across the nation for putting their lives on the line every day," the chapter said in a Facebook post.

## Eagle Chapters

**The following chapters attained Eagle status for August by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1, 2020, is shown in parentheses.**

Alamo (2)  
 Braxton Bragg (2)  
 Central California (2)  
 Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (2)  
 Col Edward Cross (2)  
 Connecticut (2)  
 Delaware (1)  
 Emerald Coast-Big Bend-So. Georgia (2)  
 Fires (2)  
 First Militia (2)  
 Fort Knox (2)  
 Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri (2)  
 Fort Rucker-Wiregrass (2)  
 Francis Scott Key (2)  
 Gem State (1)  
 GEN John J. "Black Jack" Pershing (1)  
 GEN William C. Westmoreland (2)

Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (2)  
 Greater New York-Statue of Liberty (2)  
 Greater Philadelphia (Penn and Franklin) (2)  
 Hellenic (1)  
 Houston Metroplex (2)  
 Korea (2)  
 Mid-Palatinate (2)  
 New Orleans (2)  
 North Texas (2)  
 Polar Bear (2)  
 Puerto Rico (1)  
 Rock Island Arsenal (2)  
 San Francisco (1)  
 Stuttgart (1)  
 Texas Capital Area (2)  
 White Sands Missile Range (1)





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