

Keynote Speaker:

US Army 1LT  
Nicholas Tackaberry  
STA '99, USMA '04



Thank you to the following contributors:

**MICHAEL  
MURRAY**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

A special thank you to  
**MR. JOHN GEROUX III**  
Who made this virtual ceremony  
a reality and a success.

Welcome to the



**SAINT THOMAS  
ACADEMY**

**2020**

**Military Awards Ceremony**

May 2020  
Saint Thomas Academy  
Founder's Hall  
Central Court

# 1LT Nicholas Tackaberry, '99

Nick Tackaberry attended Saint Thomas Academy (STA) from 7th grade until his graduation in 1999. While at the academy, he was proud to serve as Commander of the Color Guard, Honor Guard – and eventually was promoted to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel to command the White Battalion. Additionally, Nick served as student council class Vice President, and he enjoyed competitive shooting on the rifle club in the Junior Olympics, participating in football and baseball, and acting in Vista Productions. He is proud to have received the Garberg and Superior Cadet Awards at STA, as well as, the Lee Krough Award as a delegate to MN Boy's State.

Upon graduation from STA, Nick received an appointment to the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey – and subsequently received an appointment to the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. At West Point, he was honored to be appointed a Company Commander during Beast Barracks, intern at the United States Supreme Court, and graduate as a member of the Class of 2004. Nick was commissioned as an Infantry Officer and went on to graduate from the U.S. Army's Infantry Officer Basic School (IOBC), Sniper Emplacement School, Infantry Mortar Leader Course (IMLC), and Airborne and Air Assault Schools.

He served as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander as a Paratrooper with the 3-509th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) in Alaska, as well as, the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) attached to the 101st Airborne Expeditionary Taskforce during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). While in service, Nick earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB), Expert Infantryman's Badge (EIB), Valorous Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal -- and was responsible for conducting hundreds of combat patrols as a Heavy Weapons Platoon Leader and Battle Captain throughout Iraq. His mission was to interdict anti-Iraqi force (AIF), disrupt IED and hostile operations, and train the Iraqi Army and Police to defend Iraq (in conjunction with coalition and special forces). He was subsequently injured in the line of duty and received an honorable medical retirement from the U.S. Army in 2010.

Nick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Law and Environmental Engineering from West Point, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Australia, and is currently in his final year of PhD studies at Liberty University in Virginia – focusing on informatics, analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI). He works as a Senior Healthcare Advisor to the U.S. Federal Government in Arlington, VA, and is a researcher affiliated with the U.S. Army Aeromedical and Research Laboratory (USAARL) studying Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) through Walter Reed and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE). He has a lovely wife Natalie and 4 amazing children, and they are currently living in Delano, MN. His family is in the process of re-locating to Arlington, VA for work and school.

Welcome back, Nicholas Tackaberry!

# The Awards Program

Intro Music.....	Mr. John Geroux III
Welcome.....	COL(R) Neil Hetherington
Posting of Colors.....	Saint Thomas Academy Honor Guard
Prayer.....	C/COL Mitch MacDonald
<i>The Star Spangled Banner</i> .....	The Saint Thomas Academy Choir
Introduction of Speaker.....	COL(R) Neil Hetherington
Keynote Speaker.....	1LT Nicholas Tackaberry
<i>Pie Jesu (Requiem)</i> .....	The Saint Thomas Academy Choir
Presentation of Awards.....	Veterans' Organizations
Dessert Reception.....	All at home!
Reception Music.....	Mr. John Geroux III

*Upon return to campus in the fall, all award recipients will have an official photo taken in uniform with their Military Leadership instructor presenting the certificate and the medal.*

*Thank you for your attendance and support!*