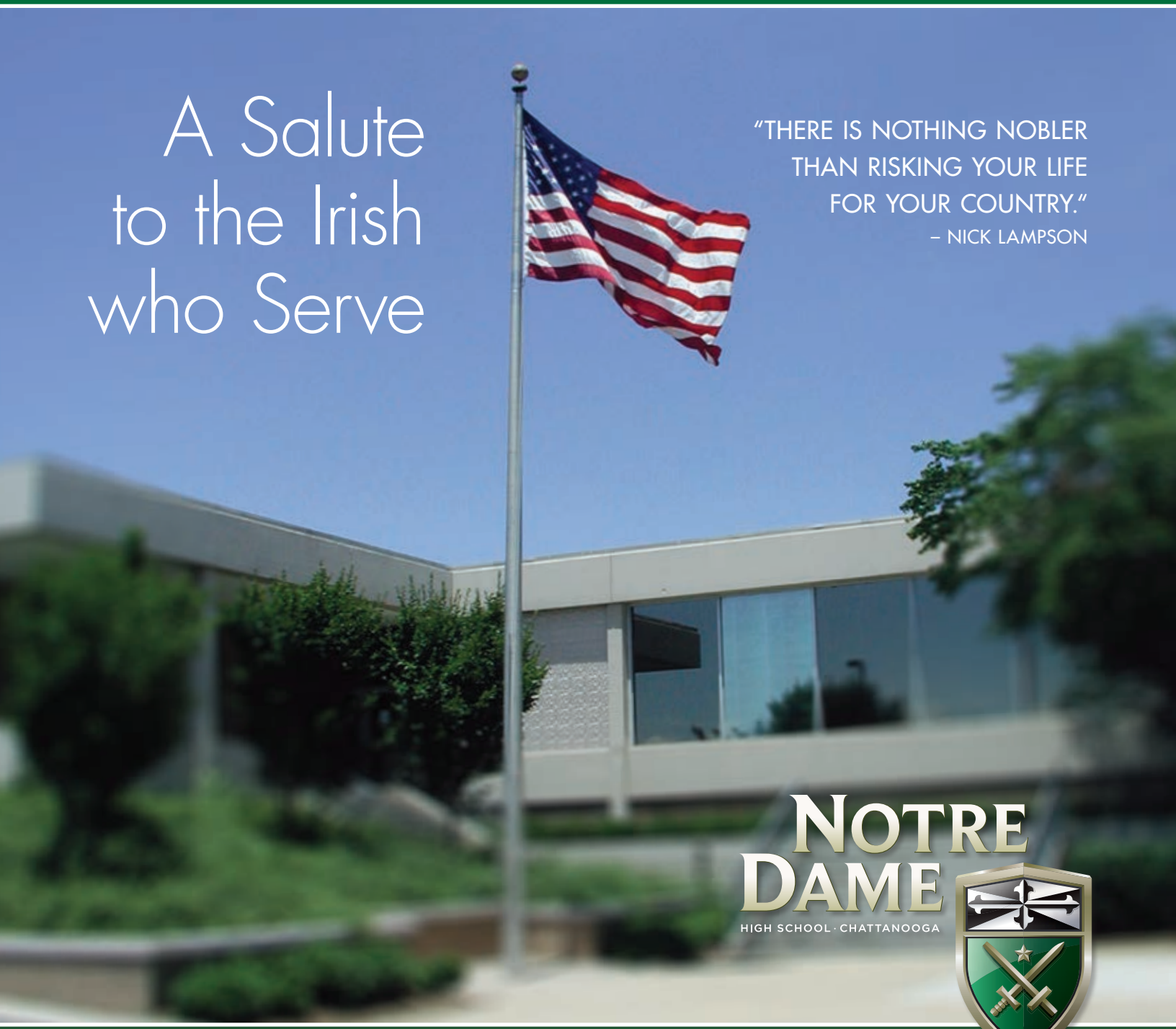
BLARNEY stone

WINTER 2021



A Salute to the Irish who Serve

"THERE IS NOTHING NOBLER THAN RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR COUNTRY."
– NICK LAMPSON

NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL · CHATTANOOGA

A PUBLICATION OF THE NOTRE DAME ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

From *the* PRESIDENT

To our NDHS families and friends –

In this season of celebrating that first Christmas miracle, I'm absolutely convinced we were blessed to experience one of our own this past fall – when we were able to begin school on campus in August, got to stay here throughout, made it through exams and reached our target date of completion.

But to add some color to that landscape, we pretty much limped across the finish line. One of our diocesan principals said it felt like we "were screeching into the break with two wheels on fire." It may have actually been three.

We were not unscathed. We had positive cases, though not many, who had to isolate in turn requiring others to quarantine for an even longer period – all who became remote learners.

And I wish I could accurately paint that landscape too. Our teachers – warriors, really – facing a roomful of students as well as a laptop. Instructing. Zooming. Asking. Can you hear? Can you see that? Did you get that? How's it going?

They not only lived a miracle, they pretty much produced one, too.

Kudos to our Diocesan leadership who modified our semester calendar, eliminating Fall Break, three-day weekends and the various travels that accompany such holidays. We wrapped up the on-campus portion of our semester at Thanksgiving … just as infections were exploding.

Our last days were spent remotely as each of our students designed and tackled their own versions of Community Outreach. And can there be a better year to think outside one's self?

In truth, our students are just emulating what the Notre Dame family has long demonstrated with great constancy and kindness. Thinking about others.

As we step into the unknown of 2021, we pray that all are able to overcome the impact of this pandemic – be it health, income or livelihood.

And we thank you for all you will do and have done to help us not only survive but to thrive. And we did indeed do that!

Prayers and blessings for this much anticipated brand new year!

George Valadie '71
President

On the Cover: **A Salute to Notre Dame Alumni who answered the call to serve in the United States Armed Forces. See pages 14-19 for tributes to many of our graduates who are on active duty or have served in the U.S. Military.**

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

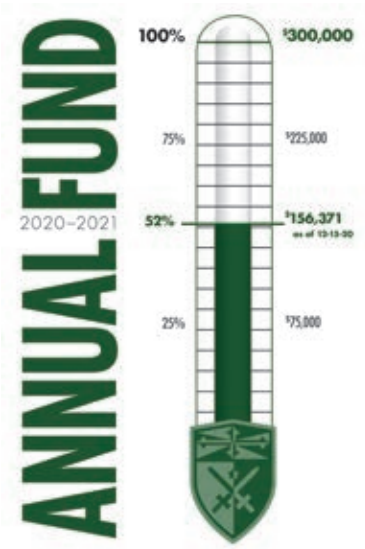
"The best things about any school are not what is said about it, but what is lived out by its Alumni"

– Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.

Dear Alumni and Friends –

Like many of you, I eagerly awaited the end of 2020! As I was working on the Alumni News section of *The Blarney Stone*, the photos of happy couples and new babies reinforced the notion of new beginnings and better times ahead in 2021. Plans are being formulated for the Alumni Weekend in July and some semblance of a return to normal!

This edition of *The Blarney Stone* has been dedicated to all the alumni who have served in the military or are currently on active duty. Their stories are numerous and diverse, but all have a common thread – service to country. Some served only a few years while others have made a lifetime career in the military. Notre Dame High School is proud of our military alumni community and thanks each of you for your dedication, sacrifice, and service for our country.



Our students and staff also want to extend thanks to all who have contributed to our Annual Fund. EVERY gift matters and directly impacts our school. We may all be wearing masks, but *Irish Eyes Are Still Smiling!*

Kathy A. Martin
Director of Advancement and Alumni Affairs

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

We need you! There will be several openings on the Alumni Council coming up in 2021. We meet several times a year and help with Alumni Weekend/Homecoming Activities. We need younger alumni (class of 2000 and up) to get involved! This is a great way to make new friends and get involved with Notre Dame. It's not a great time commitment, but it's a great time!

If interested, contact Kathy Martin at (423) 624-4618 or martink@myndhs.com.

SAVE THE DATES

for Alumni Weekend 2021

"Back Together Again"

We are planning to celebrate Alumni Weekend in July! The following classes will have reunions – 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011.
Didn't get to have your reunion last year? Have one this year! Call Kathy Martin in the Alumni Office for planning assistance.

Thursday July 22
Alumni Awards

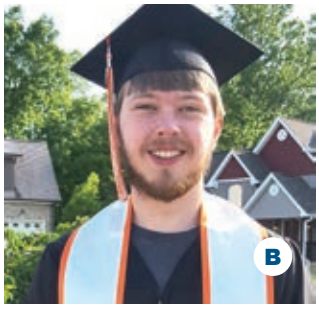
Friday July 23
36th Annual Irish Classic Golf Tournament & Every Class Bash

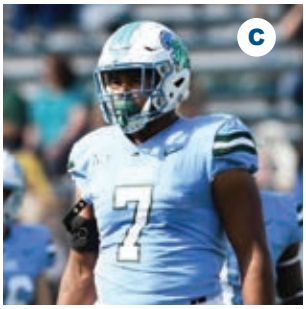
Saturday, July 24
Golden Graduates Ceremony & ND Class Reunions

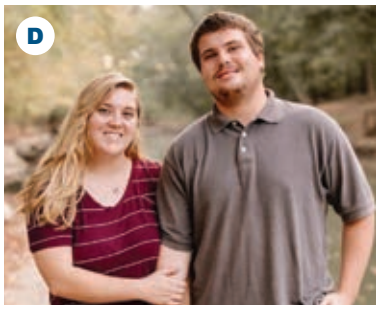
Sunday, July 25
All Alumni Mass

ALUMNI NEWS

Keep us in the loop! **Send your Alumni News to martink@myndhs.com**







A **Niamh Cahill '16** was selected to be a guest speaker at her recent graduation from The College of Charleston. Niamh graduated from the Honors College with a degree in biochemistry and a minor in Spanish. She also received the Bishop Robert Smith Award which recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional leadership and academic excellence. Niamh is currently taking a gap year and applying to medical school.

B **Dylan Ireland '16** graduated from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a Bachelors degree in Cinema Studies.

C **Patrick Johnson '16** has been selected to the 2021 East-West Shrine Bowl. Patrick is a senior at Tulane and currently holds the record for most sacks by any Tulane football player.

Virginia Britto '15 has been named the Center Director for Huntington Learning Center in Chattanooga.

D **Hunter Gruter '15** and **Morgan De Geere '14** were married at Holy Spirit Catholic Church on January 18, 2020. Hunter graduated from Tennessee Tech in 2019 with a degree in Wildlife Sciences and Fisheries and Morgan graduated from UTC in 2019 with a degree in Interior Architecture.

E **Mackenzie Guice '15** married Matthew Bradshaw on November 14th, 2020. The couple resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

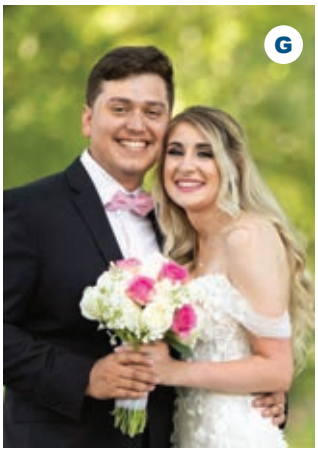
F **Rhys Miller '15** and Sierra Ann Ford got married on August 15th at the Capital Theatre in Greenville, TN. The Millers currently reside in New York City.

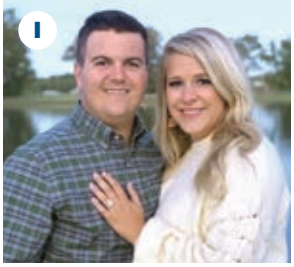
G **Edgar Rios '15** and **Allie Dearing '15** got married on August 8, 2020.

H **Bridget Bernarding '13** and Taylor Mason got married on August 12, 2020 at Mt. Baker, Washington.

I **Grayson Hargett '13** and Brianna Howard got engaged in October 2020.

J **Katie Joyce'13** and Jordan Halabrin got married on July 17, 2020 in Chattanooga.





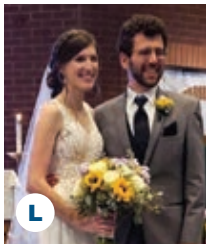
K **Lauren Simpson '13** recently got engaged to David Hall. The wedding is planned for October 2021.

L **Katie Ward '12** and **Chip Jabaley '10** got married on July 18, 2020 at St. Stephens Catholic Church.

M **Patrick Ward '12** and wife Monica welcomed a new daughter Josephine Hope in June 2020.

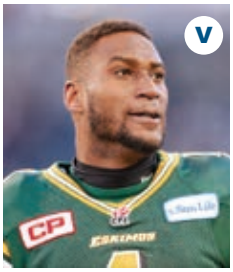
N **Lynli Miller Roney '11** and husband Corey welcomed daughter Kingsley Jo born on August 8, 2020.

O **Joanna Poinsatte '09** and Jacob Fraint got married August 9, 2020 in Madison, Wisconsin. They both are employed with the University of Wisconsin in Madison.



P **Kirby Reilly '09** recently got engaged to John Brock.

Q **Josh McCutcheon '08** and wife Katie welcomed baby daughter Ava Judith on August 27, 2020.



R **Robert Wheeler '08** got engaged to Ashlyn Blanchard this past spring.

S **Skeet Berry '06** and wife Carly welcomed baby boy William Winn Berry on August 11th.

T **Ryan Worth '06** and Haleigh Van Allen got married on September 6, 2020. Ryan works in Campus Recreation at UTC and Haleigh teaches 5th grade.

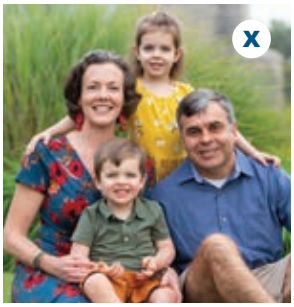
U **Bryn Meredith, D.O. '04** has joined CHI Memorial Pediatric Diagnostic Associates. Dr. Meredith is a retired Lieutenant Commander, Medical Corps, US Navy.

V **Adarius Bowman '03** has been named to the Canadian Football League All-Decade Team. He currently resides in Edmonton Alberta, Canada.

W **Megan Swartz Williams '01** welcomed the arrival of her second son, Harrison Thomas Williams on June 5, 2020.

Moving? Be sure to let the Alumni Office know your new address! Send to martink@myndhs.com

ALUMNI NEWS



X **Amber Greenwell Hagen '94** recently accepted a job with Simply Bank as a Senior Relationship Specialist Manager. Amber and husband Corey have two children, Ruby (4) and Michael (3).

Y **Jason Marchmon '89** has partnered with two other individuals to open Hook Point Brewing in Collierville, Tennessee.

Z **Toria Tindall Williams '87** recently accepted the position of Community Relations Manager with Hospice of Chattanooga.

AA **William Gomes '68** was awarded with a 2020 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence. Mr. Gomes was the Planning Director in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, and assisted with the restoration of key historic sites as well development of many county programs.

BB **Raymond Weaver '62** retired from the U.S. Post Office with 40 years of service. He currently works for a rental car company at the Chattanooga Airport.

REMEMBERING

The faculty, staff and students of Notre Dame offer our most sincere condolences to all those families who have lost loved ones. We remember them and all our dearly beloved in our daily prayers and Masses.

Joseph Farid Ankar '81
Drew Colin Bradford '98
Gene F. Bruno '60
Robert C. Day '47
Mary Dolan Downs '45
Susan Warren Gilbreath '80
Patricia Krug '63
Kenneth Paul Martin '72
Kathleen McEnerny '80
Alexander McGregor '66
Ray Michael Morrison '44
James Raymo '62
Burt Sawyer '54
Becky Daniels Valadie '51
Elizabeth Ann Wheeler '47

STAY CONNECTED!

www.myndhs.com > Alumni

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Twitter
@myndhs

Facebook
Groups/NDalum
NDChattanooga

Keep on Truckin'

The catch phrase of the late 60's and early 70's, *Keep on Truckin'*, seems to describe Joe Coleman's life since graduating from Notre Dame in 1972. He has successfully guided and grown five trucking or trucking related companies!

After graduating from NDHS, Joe attended MTSU and graduated in 1976 with a degree in Mass Communication, Public Relations and Advertising with a minor in Political Science and Psychology. His first job after graduation was in the MTSU Admissions Department. After two years, Joe left MTSU and went to work for Mason Dixon Lines in Nashville and began his very successful career in trucking.

Joe and his wife Julie currently reside in Atlanta.

NDHS: What are some of your notable career achievements?
Joe: After two years with Mason Dixon, I moved to Atlanta and started S&W Lines- a company that grew from $2 million in revenues to $6 million in a couple of years. During this time, I was offered a 25% interest in a company called Southern Freight. We started with little revenue and within eight years S&W Lines had grown to a $20 million dollar company and I was able to sell my share.

After a year away from the trucking industry due to a non-compete contract, I started Volume Transportation in 1990. I grew Volume Transportation to a $40 million a year southeast regional truckload carrier and sold it to my partner after 28 years. In 1993, CS Truck & Trailer was founded but I did not actually work there till I sold Volume Transportation in 2007.

CS Truck & Trailer started with 30 employees and has grown to 115 and is located on a 16 acre property. We are the largest privately-owned tractor trailer repair paint and body shop in the Southeast. We have earned the Atlanta area "Top Workplace Award" for the last three years.

In addition to my workplace achievements, I was selected as a Distinguished Alumni of MTSU in 2007 and have served on the Foundation Board for two years.

NDHS: *What keeps you busy outside of the workplace?*
Joe: I'm heavily involved with CURE Childhood Cancer, serving on the Board for the 28 years. I have chaired a golf tournament for childhood cancer research raising $2.5 million dollars over 32 years! This cause is important to me as my daughter was diagnosed at age two with leukemia and survived after three years of treatments. Along with my charitable work, I have served as a Boy Scout leader and coached boys baseball and girls fast pitch softball. One of my softball teams made in to the Nationals in Garland, Texas.

NDHS: *How did your four years at NDHS prepare you for your future?*
Joe: NDHS prepared me with love and appreciation for everyone – never malice or prejudice. Teamwork, faith and family were the essence of NDHS. My parents sacrificed so much personally to provide a Catholic education for me and my three brothers. As I get older, I greatly appreciate the value of my education.

NDHS: *What are some of your favorite memories while at NDHS?*
Joe: All my memories at Notre Dame are great! I loved every minute of my time in high school. I was part of the student government and was President of the Student Council. I was also involved in CYO and sports. Some of my favorite teachers included Miss Herman, Sister Mary Hildegarde, and Coach Taylor. Mrs. Viola Carson on the cafeteria staff and Bob Young on the maintenance staff were also some of my favorites. Our class is very close and prior to the pandemic, some of us would gather for lunch once a month in Chattanooga. Great memories and fun!

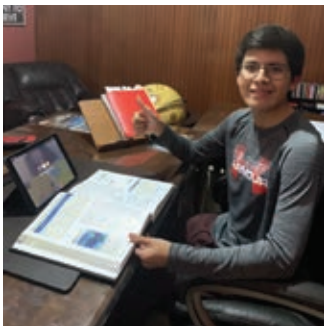
NDHS: *Advice for NDHS alumni and future graduates?*
Joe: Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. ☘

SCHOOL NEWS

Serving Others During a Pandemic

The students at NDHS continued to serve others in the community while in the midst of the Covid pandemic. The senior class participated in a "Build Day" with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization and built beds for children in need. Students participated in the Clifton Hills Elementary School Food Pantry, and The Weekend Warriors volunteered at The Community Kitchen and the Chattanooga Food Bank. The basketball teams helped with hurricane relief for Alabama families.

To cap off the end of the semester, all students were asked to participate in the NDHS Community Outreach Week. Students answered the call and made blankets for the homeless, wrote letters to those in nursing homes and hospice, sent care packages to homeless shelters, made ornaments for the COVID-19 medical staff at CHI Memorial Hospital, and hosted tutoring sessions. Irish Proud!



Fall Theater Production

The show must go on even during a pandemic. Theater director Bethany Moody chose *The Monologue Show* as it allowed for flexibility in students rehearsing one at a time, and some performing virtually! Students were able to stay socially distant

and masked during the performance. Twenty students were cast and met together only during the final two weeks of rehearsal. Mrs. Moody said the cast connected well with each other and were grateful to safely bring theatre to the Notre Dame community during uncertain times.

Christmas Concert

Director McIntosh and the Irish Concert Band rang in the Christmas season with a joyful concert in the new Miller Theater.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Anne Edmunds Aguirre, ED.D.

Director of College Counseling

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana

Education: MEd in Higher Education Administration, Vanderbilt University; EdD Higher Education Administration, The University of Alabama; BA in Math, Vanderbilt University

Thoughts on NDHS: After working in higher education for over 25 years, I now enjoy helping high school students make informed decisions about their college options. I have appreciated the opportunity to live out my Catholic faith by serving students in a Catholic high school. The Notre Dame community has been very welcoming and supportive of me.

Sister Dominica Bickerton, O.P.

Hometown: Montgomery, Alabama

Education: MA in Theology, Providence College; BS in Mass Communications, Boston University

Thoughts on NDHS: I love learning more about the history of our sisters and Notre Dame High School. This school is beloved in our community and it is exciting to teach the sophomores.

Jane Champlin

English Instructor

Hometown: Lilburn, Georgia

Education: MA in English, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; BSED in Secondary English Education, University of Georgia

Thoughts on NDHS: Teaching at Notre Dame has far exceeded my expectations. Without fail, every person here has been helpful and welcoming to me; the academic expectations the teachers have for themselves and their students creates a great school environment and one that I am so happy to be a part of.

Dan Clotfelter

Computer Science Instructor, Head Volleyball Coach

Hometown: Ringgold, Georgia

Education: BS in Management and Marketing, Georgia Institute of Technology

Thoughts of NDHS: From my first day coaching here at Notre Dame, I have been impressed by the kindness of the students. Students have gone out their way to help me when needed and encourage the success of my team.

Trey Hicks

Modern World History Teacher

Hometown: Soddy Daisy, Tennessee

Education: Masters in Instructional Leadership, Tennessee Tech; BS in History, Lee University

Why I love teaching: I teach because I wanted to be a part of helping students find their path in life and understanding their worth. Teachers have played a major role in shaping my life and I wanted to pay that forward.

Deb Weiss

Mathematics Instructor

Hometown: Pottsville, Pennsylvania

Education: MEd Educational Leadership, Trevecca Nazarene University; BS Mathematics, Marywood University

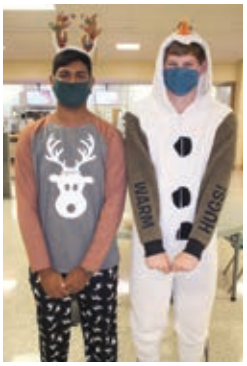
Why I love teaching: Teaching is a calling. Retirement after 40+ years in public education wasn't an option. I still feel the call to serve. I am blessed to be teaching such wonderful students as those here at Notre Dame.

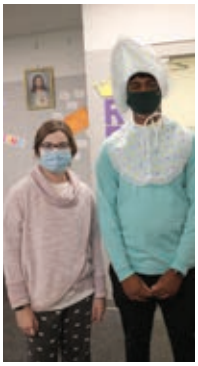
National Merit Semi-finalist

Congratulations to Isabella Wade on being named a National Merit Scholarship Program semi-finalist. Isabella was one of 1.5 million juniors nationwide who took the PSAT test this year; only 16,000 students qualify as semi-finalists. She will now have the opportunity to compete for National Merit Scholarships in excess of $30 million this spring.

Coping with Covid

This school year has definitely been different from years past but our students and staff have met the challenges. Mass and lunch are held outside. Students are learning in-person and online. Masks and hand sanitizers are everywhere...but so are the smiles!

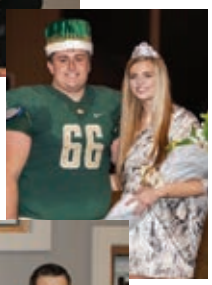




Homecoming 2020

Homecoming festivities were held during the last week of October. Although there wasn't a dance or alumni get-together, the NDHS students celebrated the week with various dress-up days including Jersey Day, Dress for Success, Iconic Groups & Duos, and Circle of Life. The week was capped off with the crowning of the King and Queen at the football game and a 38-0 victory of Green Hill High School.

L-R: Charlotte Mahn, Yasu Tyndale, Queen Emmeline Crisp, Sarah Willingham, Gwen Jimenez



L-R: Max Flasch, Carson Chepul, King Maverick Tucker, Eric Alvarado, Zack Naessig

ATHLETICS NEWS

The fall season was a challenge due to the many Covid restrictions. Our athletes rose to the occasion and were able to successfully compete. Many thanks to our seniors for their years of dedication to the Irish!

Lady Irish Volleyball

The 2020-21 volleyball team had one of the best years in recent program history. Finishing with a 32-5 record, the Irish completed a second straight undefeated district schedule and won the district tournament without losing a set. The Irish finished the season by making a run to the Division II-A State Championship game. McKenna Brown led the team and was named to the All-District team, All-Region team, district MVP, and Best of Preps. Off the court, the Lady Irish were just as impressive. All eight seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society and the cumulative GPA was a 4.0! Congratulations to the Lady Irish Volleyball team and Head Coach Dan Clotfelter.

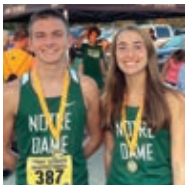
Irish Football

Completing the 2020 season was extremely difficult due to the Covid protocols and precautions. However, this team was resilient and answered the call time and time again. We saw high levels of hard work and togetherness from this group of young men. Even though the record doesn't show it, this was one of our best years of growth and improvement. Some individual shout outs include Kahlil Spence leading the team in rushing, and George Fillauer and Charlie Menham leading the team in pass receptions. Maverick Tucker anchored the offensive line with an impressive 68 pancake blocks.

Lady Irish Soccer

The Lady Irish had a challenging start to their season but continued to improve and advance in the district. Unfortunately, the team had to quarantine for two weeks but was able to compete in the playoffs. Exciting overtime wins at CAK and in the State tournament round of 16 highlighted the season. The season ended with a loss in the State quarter final. Kassidy Barta, Kenzie Campbell, Riley Mroz, and Tori Soutuyo made the All-District Team and Gracen Brewster, Kenzie Campbell, and Tori Soutuyo made the All-Region Team. In addition to All District & Region, Gracen was selected for the All-State team!

Cross-Country



Talent and hard work produce results! There were 49 total PR's (personal records) over the course of the season. Colton Sanborn was the overall winner for two meets and consistently placed at the top in every meet. Sophie Welch led the way on the girl's side. The team finished 2nd in the Region and qualified for the State! The seniors led the way but an impressive group of underclassmen will carry the team's success for next year.

Golf

The Notre Dame golf season started in July and ran through to the regional tournament in September. Ryan Eiselstein recorded the low round (38) of the season against Boyd Buchanan. In addition to having the season low round, Ryan advanced to the region along with Matthew Richardson, CD Petrin and Sarah Cate Richardson.

Dusty Gunn
Athletic Director

Notre Dame Annual Giving Program

Gifts to Notre Dame come from alumni, parents, faculty, and other friends for both specified and unspecified uses. **Every Gift makes a difference – whether large or small. It ensures the future of Catholic education in our community.** On behalf of the entire Notre Dame High School family, thank you to each and every one of the donors in the following listings. These donations were made between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. *If any of the following are listed incorrectly or there are omissions, we apologize and ask you to please contact Kathy Martin in the Advancement Office.*

THE ANNUAL FUND

Three Centuries & Beyond Club ($10,000 +)

Anonymous
Joe Coleman '72
Frances and Beverly DuBose Foundation, Inc.
Karl Fillauer '66
Charles Franer '52
Mike & Martha Leiper '80
In memory of Katharine B. Davies
Mike & Martha Leiper '80
In honor of Faculty, Staff and Students of Notre Dame High School
MAKUS
Michael Miller '59
Todd Nowell '88

Dominican Sisters Society ($5,000 - $9,999)

Dr. Benjamin Baker '96
Reverend Charles Burton
Rascoe B. Davis Fund
Eileen Erickson DuBose '68
Knights of Columbus, Queen of Heaven Council
Reverend Mike Nolan '78
Nancy Nolan '72
Mick and Sandy Lee Family Foundation
Mike '74 & Judy St. Charles '74

Sister Jane Francis Beck, O.P. Club ($2,500 - $4,999)

Charles '66 & Libby '66 Dietzen
In memory of Martin "Lanny" Haynes '65
Peter Hendee '72
Margaret Hubbuch '47
Knights of Columbus, Philip Paul Breen Council
Martha & Lawrence Skelly '64
In memory of Monsignor George E. Schmidt '62
Ken & Kathy Mara '68, '68
Betty Rutherford '66
In memory of Skip Brannen '68

1876 Club ($1,000 - $2,499)

Jamie Ashby '95
Jack Berry '80
Raleigh Cooper '63
In memory of Mary Rita '68 & Joseph Cooper '71
Thomas Coulter '74
Joan Davis
In memory of John Marcus Davis '91
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Decosimo
In honor of George Valadie '71
Diocese of Knoxville, St. Faustina Parish
Laura Hutcheson Finch '83
Raymond Fox '71
John Foy '61
Duffy Franck & Trustees of Weldon F. Osborne Foundation
Chris '73 & J.J. Grabenstein
R. Blane Haywood
Corinne Henderson '80
Alaric & Sharon Henry
Kristy Higgins '87
In honor of the Mara family
Eugene T. Hubbuch '61
Knights of Columbus, Council 610
Moon Gin Lee
Drs. Ondrej & Ludmila Lisy
Robert L. Mahoney, Jr. '70
In memory of Mary Catherine Dean Mahoney '71
Martha Martin '73
In memory of Jo Masich Nolan
Victor Massari '65
In memory of Martin "Lanny" Haynes '65
Darrel '78 & Mary Massengale
George Mayo '59
In memory of Mary Park Mayo '39
J. Carey & Nancy H. McHugh '66, '66
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ANSWERING THE CALL

Fighting Irish in U.S. Military Service

By Hayden Seay '12

From Notre Dame, countless graduates have joined the ranks of the United States Military. The following are just a few of their stories.

The Marine Corps

For **Chris Duke '91**, joining the United States Marine Corps gave him an opportunity to search for what he wanted in life. "I wanted something different, something more," says Chris, who credits his sense of patriotism for leading him to join the Marine Corps in 1996. "So, I gave it a shot."

At Notre Dame, Chris valued the camaraderie of his graduating class, an attribute he also recognized about the Marines. "I appreciated the smaller, closer-knit communities, which is certainly what Notre Dame offered," says Chris. After graduating, Chris majored in both mechanical and civil engineering at UTC. But after working as an engineer, Chris yearned for something different. "One of the things that made it as good as it was [is] the camaraderie of the Marine Corps," says Chris. "This organization is bigger than yourself."

During his time in the Marines, Chris flew as a pilot and served in Indonesia, Africa, and Iraq, and conducted maritime operations in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. "The biggest impact of everything I did was actually the tsunami and the Humanitarian Assistance Operation, bringing food and supplies to keep people alive in Indonesia," Chris says about the December 26, 2004 tsunami, which claimed the lives of almost 230,000 people. The earthquake responsible for the tsunami, which struck off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, registered as a 9.1 on the Richter scale. "It was pretty traumatic to see. In most cases, people had nothing other than the clothes they were wearing... all that they had was each other and that is all that mattered to them," says Chris. "But you saw at that moment, all of the other stuff that we complain about and things that we think are important really doesn't matter."

After sustaining an injury, he stopped flying and switched to a new field: Space Reconnaissance. "I've always been interested in space and physics," says Chris, "…I wanted to go back to school and do something different." Chris earned a master's in Management (Logistics) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and another in Space Operations at the Naval Postgraduate School. After acceptance in the Navy Space Program, he served as one of the Marine Corps' Space Operations officers.

"It's fun to be able to get up and go to work and know that you're just excited about the area you're working in," says Chris, who now works for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory since retiring from the Marine Corps.

The Coast Guard

Chris' younger brother, **Kerry Duke '94**, enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 2001.

Kerry cites his desire to serve his country as his reason for joining the Coast Guard. "At the time, I wasn't quite sure [what] direction I wanted to go, career-wise. I knew I wanted to check that box of public service, and [the Coast Guard] afforded me that opportunity."

"Notre Dame [instilled] a lot of values," says Kerry. "It allowed me to be guided spiritually…Those values started with me at an early age, and my upbringing from my parents," The Duke family has a history of attending the school: Kerry and Chris are joined by younger brother Alex, Notre Dame '04.

After graduating from UTC, Kerry went through the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. Currently, Kerry serves as a commander (O-5) and the J1 Directorate Department Head of the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), in Doral, FL. "At SOUTHCOM, our main focus is international relations throughout the central and southern hemisphere," says Kerry.

Every year, Kerry participates as one of the Coast Guard's lead planners for an international exercise involving more than twenty countries across Europe, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. "We work with [these countries] and give them a lot of

resources, and we help train them to get them up to what we feel is a level of readiness," says Kerry.

Throughout his service, Kerry has responded to hurricanes like Katrina and Harvey and other disasters, including serving as one of the lead investigators of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Says Kerry: "We set up an incident command post and help respond during the storm and after the storm and get people back to some normalcy."

The Navy

Andrew Weiss '96 had always wanted to join the military. "I had a desire to serve, a desire to be in the military, and when I graduated high school, (enlisting) just didn't work out at the time," says Weiss. "Growing up, high school is a unique time; you're not yet an adult, but you don't consider yourself to be a child." Weiss was in his mid-twenties and married when the call to military hit again: "…that bug kind of came back about service and giving back to the country," says Weiss, who earned a master's degree in hospital administration at Xavier University. "It was through that master's program that I also got my commission in the Navy."

Andrew and wife Karin decided he should pursue opportunities in the Navy, which has led to 16 years of service, starting at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Weiss' career has led him to serve aboard the USS Nimitz, at the US Naval Hospital in Rota, Spain, at the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN, and currently at the Naval Health Clinic in Charleston, SC.

While at the National Naval Medical Center, Weiss served as an officers in charge of the Presidential Medical Unit during the Obama Administration. "I was part of the team who would help coordinate the first family's physicals, and whenever President or Mrs. Obama would come and visit casualties [or] troops that were back and being treated at Bethesda," says Weiss. To help make these visits a reality, the team coordinated with both the White House Medical Unit and the Secret Service.

During his time at Notre Dame, Weiss says the school helped form his character and the person he wanted to be. "The things you learn in the classroom gives you that degree, but it's what you learn outside of the classroom, [whether] or not you're giving back to the community or if you're side by side with your teammates on Friday night," says Weiss. "It's those kinds of lessons that kind of help get you through life."

His brother, Christopher Weiss, Notre Dame '00, has served in the Navy for fifteen years and currently serves at the same Navy hospital in Spain as Andrew. "We're both proud to call Notre Dame our alma mater," says Weiss.

The Air Force

While interning at the psychiatric unit for the Veteran Affairs in Murfreesboro, TN, **Benita Mahollan '01** found a new direction for her life: joining the Air Force. "I talked to a lot of workers [who were prior service]" says Mahollan, who currently serves as a Master Sergeant at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. "I went ahead and looked into it and kind of liked what they said, so I ended up joining the Air Force."

Mahollan has earned a number of awards, including the United State Air Force Emergency Manager of the Year and the highest MSgt Board Score in her career field in 2020. "I ended up testing number one for my [receiving] rank in the entire Air Force," says Mahollan, scoring 427.5 out of 450 points. "Most people don't get over 360."

Mahollan's career has led her to serve in Japan, Qatar, England, Germany, and stateside in Idaho. "My first deployment was to Al-Udeid in Qatar, and while I was there, I actually ended up running into Father John Appiah," her priest while at Notre Dame. Mahollan crossed paths again with Appiah in 2015, where he served as a Captain in the Air Force at the time. "Small world," says Mahollan. "He said the Catholic Church released him for a few years to join the Air Force."

Mahollan's husband, John, and her sister Brittany Francis, Notre Dame '10, have also served in the Air Force. Brittany, a senior airman in Lackland, TX, cited her desire to follow in her sister's footsteps as one of the main reasons why she joined, along with traveling the world and giving back the United States.

After Notre Dame, Benita Mahollan earned a bachelor's degree in community and public health from Middle Tennessee State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. "I feel like the drive that I had accomplished and achieved while going to high school kind of propelled me to keep going forward," Mahollan says.

Benjamin Warner, an Englishman who arrived in the colonies in the early 1740s, was blessed with six strong sons. New sons in a new world, all grew to support the burgeoning American military. All six served during the Revolutionary War, but one - Seth Warner - played a major role in the course of the war.

On August 16, 1777, Colonel Seth Warner led reinforcements to fortify the American militia at the Battle of Bennington. With these extra men, the tide of the battle turned and dealt a massive setback to the British Army, forcing a retreat. While serving in the Continental Army, Seth also participated in the Battles of Ticonderoga and Hubbardton.

Warner became the storied forebear of the Chattanooga branch of the Sharp family, but not the only descendant to serve in uniform. Over the next two centuries, the Sharps have continued to serve the military in times of war and peace.

Hearing tales of his family's military past sparked Mick Sharp's desire to join the Army. "Our family has a storied military past," says Mick, a 1972 graduate. "My siblings and I grew up with stories of the service of the Sharp family during World War I and World War II, so I always felt that I had a propensity to follow suit."

For seven years, Mick served as an enlisted soldier, but he left the Army for another seven to work in his family's business with his brothers. One month before his 32nd birthday, the cut-off age for reenlistment, he rejoined the Army. "I never intended to go back in, but I did at the very last second and I never looked back," says Mick. "It's not something I ever really wanted to give up."

Mick, who retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2006, served in Hawaii, Panama, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, and Malaysia. He earned numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Honorable Order of St. Barbara, and the Order of St. Maurice.

"One of my first experiences was serving with my brother Bill," says Mick, who served alongside Bill from 1973 to 1976 in Hawaii. "Serving with him was a big deal to me."

Additionally, Mick gave his twin brother and 1972 graduate, Rick, his first salute when he graduated from the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1976. Rick, who passed away in 2019, served in the 82nd Airborne and retired as a lieutenant in 1980.

"One of the highlights was in 1976, General Omar Bradley was making his farewell tour, he was still on active duty in the Army and he came to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and my unit hosted him for his farewell retirement," says Mick. "What an honor to meet a famous World War II general; that was great."

Later in his career, Mick returned to Chattanooga to help transition the local National Guard battalion from an 8-inch Howitzer system to the Multiple Launch Rocket System over the course of four years. "At that time, I was able to actually give the Oath of Enlistment to my son," says Mick, who administered the oath to his son, Micky Jr, in 1998.

Looking back on his time at Notre Dame, Mick says his experiences there prepared him for the unwavering discipline and regimentation required to serve.

"I grew up Catholic all my life, went to parochial schools [like] St. Stephens and Notre Dame," says Mick, whose family, including all eight of his siblings and some of their children, has a history of attending the school. "It taught me discipline; I played football and sports the whole time at Notre Dame. Just being involved in all that served me well."

Bill Sharp, Mick's brother and 1962 alum, served for about 21 years as a field artillery officer and retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"My Army career started in '65," says Bill, whose career began when he joined the Army Reserves in Chattanooga with his friend and fellow Notre Dame alum, Alex Wayne Valadez. "But I didn't stay with that very long because it wasn't working out well with my job and I was either going to have to be in the military or not be in the military."

"What caused me to join was the Vietnam [stuff] that was going on," says Bill. "I was born during World War II, so we grew up with the [WWII] phenomenon, all of my uncles and my dad, of course. Every man I knew, growing up had served in the military, so it was just a thing that you did, that was part of life."

Bill's career in the Army splits into two distinct periods: Two tours in Vietnam and officer training.

During the first half of his career, Bill primarily served in field artillery assignments. He spent time as an artillery forward observer at Landing Zone Brillo Pad, a base on the Cambodia-

South Vietnam border, during the Tet Offensive in 1968. The soldiers there set up blockades to prevent the North Vietnamese army from advancing, but in May 1968, a regiment attacked and overran a part of the base. "About noon time, a round dropped over my shoulder and exploded," says Bill, who got hit by shrapnel, leading to months of recovery and eventually, a second tour in Vietnam.

During the second part of his career, Bill focused on training officers and served as the project officer of the Army's Combined Armed Services Staff School (CAS3).

Throughout his career, Bill earned a number of awards, but there is one he calls his most prized: the Order of Aaron and Hur. While carrying out his last assignment before retiring, Bill served as the Officer Christian Fellowship Regional Representative for the Mid-Atlantic. The Chief of Chaplains of the Army awarded him with the Order of Aaron and Hur, the most prestigious award recognizing years of dedication to the Army Chaplains Corps. "I'm very happy to make it the award I value the most out of my military career," says Bill, who is now a retired Anglican Priest.

Captain Bill Sharp '62 gives brother, Sergeant Mick Sharp '72 the oath of reenlistment in 1974.

Captain Mick Sharp '72 gives son, MIcky '98 the oath of enlistment into the U.S. Army in 1998.

While attending Notre Dame, Bill says he learned valuable life lessons like teamwork and a strong work ethic from the school's priests, nuns, teachers, and coaches, including Tom Clary. "Those things were invaluable in my military career," says Bill.

His son, Bill Jr. joined the military and attended Virginia Military Institute, where he completed his university work. He served in armored units and tanks, and retired as captain in the mid-90s.

Just like his father and uncles before him, Micky Jr. joined the Army after graduating from Notre Dame in 1998.

"The family really influenced me. I was at school with most of them, and it was just a constant thing," says Micky Jr., who retired as a specialist. "I grew up as a military brat, so I was always around it. But then also, at the time of graduation, I'll be honest--[with] my mindset I wasn't ready to go to college. So, it was kind of another option in that way."

At Notre Dame, he developed discipline and focus, especially while playing football under Coach Brown, whose practice style resembled basic training.

While enlisted, Micky Jr. participated in a number of month-long training sessions, including at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA and Rock of the Marne in Savannah, GA. "I went to the National Training Center in California, that was desert warfare training out there," says Micky, who currently serves as a field training officer for the Chattanooga Police Department.

Speaking of his family's history with the military, Micky Jr. says: "I think it's a pretty big deal, I'm proud…They've been in almost every single war this country has been in."

Two years ago, Mick and Micky Jr. visited the grave of their ancestor, James Marshall Sharp Jr., who served in the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne in World War I. "He was killed when he was 25 in a mustard gas attack in the trenches," says Mick. "My brother Rick researched it and found that he was actually buried in the American Cemetery in the Meuse-Argonne."

When the duo arrived in France, they realized they visited the grave 100 years to the day that their ancestor passed away. "It was a big deal for my son and I to be there," says Mick. "Nobody from our family had ever been to the cemetery in France, so it was a big deal for us." ☘

A Salute to WHO SERVE

This past fall, the Alumni Office at NDHS made an information request through social media and email searching for alumni who have served – or are on active duty – in the U.S. Military. The following individuals responded with their information. As a school community, we are very proud of these alumni and ALL those who graduated from NDHS and served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Thank you for your service to our great country! Irish Proud!

NAVY

Chris Thompson '83
Lieutenant
Served in Reserves 1983-1987 at Vanderbilt University, 1987-1991 on USS W. S. Sims (FF/059), 1991-1993 US Naval Station Mayport, Florida; Received Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal

James (Jim) Grubb '83
E7
Served 20 years as Operations Specialist, Air Intercept Control Supervisor; 4 Navy Achievement Medals, Navy Commendation Medal; Navy Recruiter, Navy Instructor; 9 deployments including Operation Praying Mantis, NATO Operations in the Balkans, Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Jason Courtney '93
Petty Officer 3rd Class
Active duty from 1993-1998, Reserves 1998-2001; Search & Rescue swimmer, Rifle & Pistol Expert, Master Diver, Jump School, Member of All Navy wrestling team; Southeast Asia Service Medal

Harry R. Wilkinson '60
Lieutenant
Served 5 years; Navy Commendation Medal, Vietnamese Navy Distinguished Service Order, Vietnam Service with combat

James Fisher, MD '05
Lieutenant Commander, US Navy Medical Corps
Active duty 2013-2020, Reserves 2009-2013; attended medical school at ETSU James H. Quillen College of Medicine on a US Navy Health Professions Scholarship; Received Joint Service Commendation Medal & Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; served at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the US Naval Hospital in Beaufort, South Carolina

Scott Brown '83
Lieutenant
Served 8 years; SH60-B Seahawk Pilot in Mayport, Florida; participated in Desert Shield/Desert Storm while deployed on the USS Samuel B. Roberts; Awarded Air Medal; taught NROTC at Georgia Tech while earning MBA

Stan Sumrell '66
Ensign
Served 2 years; fighter pilot on the T34 Mentor and T2 Buckeye; Commander of the Aviation Officer Candidate School; Stationed in Pensacola, Florida and Meridian, Mississippi

John Rodriquez '64
E-6
Served 6 years; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with 4 bronze stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation with Gallantry Cross, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea); Letter of Commendation from the Commanding Officer, USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) extending appreciation for my contribution in helping sustain a high degree of morale during our deployment in the Gulf of Tonkin

Paul Corden '65
Hospitalman 3rd Class
Served 1968 – 1972; Vietnam Service Medal with Fleet Marine Force Combat Insignia, Bronze Star

MARINES

Nathan Wehunt '98
E-4
Served 4 years; Good Conduct Medal, two unit citations

Jim Eberle '73
Captain
Served 8 years; Discharged after 8 years due to a leg injury sustained while I was in high school; attended the Naval Academy; stationed in Okinawa and Hawaii

AIR FORCE

Stephen M. Groves '71
Sergeant
Served from 1976 – 1980; Received Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Longevity Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation

Raleigh Cooper '63
Major
Served 1967 – 1987; Awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal; Member of NATO board and attended quarterly meetings at NATO Headquarters in Brussels; taught Air Force Junior ROTC for 19 years in New Orleans area

Michael Mahn '64
Sergeant
Served 1966- 1969; received two Commendation Awards for Service in Vietnam; published book "American Passage: the Class of '68"

Harry E Hunt, Jr. '57
A1C
Served 4 years

Robert (Bob) E. Connelly '62
Captain
Served 1967-1971; Stationed in the Philippines and island named Lubang in South China Sea

ARMY

Victor C. (Clayton) Pangle II '63
Captain
Served 1967 – 1977; Graduate of United States Military Academy, 1967; Four Bronze Stars, Two Purple Hearts, Five Army Commendation Medals, Air Medal, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge; various command and staff assignments to include: Infantry Platoon Leader & Company Commander in combat in Vietnam for the First Infantry Division; US Army Ranger School Instructor, ROTC instructor at University of Tennessee

Brent Hamill '92
Command Sergeant Major
29 years as of November 2020; Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (8 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (8 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Service Medal

Leonard Thomas Gaddis, Jr. '68
Colonel
Served 36 years; Special Forces

the Irish

Patrick Healy '09
Specialist
Served 4 years active duty, reserve 3 years; Army Commendation Medal, two Achievement Medals

Wales Standifer '65
Specialist E-5
Served 1966 – 1972; Vietnam Service Medal; received top secret security clearance to work in the "War Room" at Army Headquarters in Long Binh, Vietnam

Raymond Weaver '62
Specialist E-4
Enlisted in September 1962 and served 30 months with first brigade of the 83nd Airborne Division; deployed to the Dominican Republic on a combat mission to fight a pro-Cuba leftist coup

Jason Marchmon '89
Specialist E-4
Served October 1989 – April 1992; Stationed in Fort Drum, New York; Airborne, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm

George Hubbuch '65
Specialist E-4
Served 3 years; stationed in Korea 1968 – 1969

Lawrence (Larry) Skelly II '64
Colonel
Served 27 years, retiring from Pentagon in April 1995; Served 3 combat missions, 2nd Infantry Division on the DMZ in South Korea, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Fort Carson, Colorado; received Legion of Merit Award

Tom McGrath '91
Lieutenant Colonel
Served 24 years, retired in July 2020

Gary Herbst '61
1st Lieutenant
Served 1965 – 67

Thomas W. White '59 (deceased)
1st Lieutenant
Served 1966 – 1969 in Vietnam

Ed Taliaferro '58
1st Lieutenant
Served 1963 – 1965

Jim Lynch '52
1st Lieutenant
Served 2 years

William (Bill) Powell '65
Lieutenant Colonel
Served 26 years in Reserve; Stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky during Desert Storm working Transportation Division sending 35 USAR units overseas and bringing them home

Dallas Brown '20
PV2
National Defense Service Medal

David Wehunt '74
Major
Served 3 years Active duty and 20 years Reserve; Infantry; Army Commendation Award, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon

Charles T. Frees '65
Specialist E-5
Served from 1966 – 1968; Awarded National Defense and Good Conduct

Charles Stutz '58
Specialist E-4
Served in Reserve for 6 years

Christopher D. Albert '69
1st Sergeant E-8
Served 1970 – 1994; Awarded Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (7th Award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Vietnam Service Medal (3 Service Stars), NCO Professional Development Ribbon (w/3 device), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Ron Walker '64
Sergeant
Served 1968 – 1970 in Army Infantry and Army Air Defense

Dana Ellis '71
Captain
Served 1975 – 1980 in US Army Nurse Corps

Ben Leiper '06
Captain
Currently on active duty for 3 years with 101st Airborne Division; graduated from University of Tennessee College of Law and serving as a Judge Advocate

Michael Prevou '75
Colonel
Served 26 years; received Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Joint Service Commendation, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon, NATO Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Ann Curtis Crosby '84
First Sergeant
Currently serving (32 years)in Reserve in Nashville-Southeast Medical Area Readiness Group

Peter M. Weaver '66
Captain
Served 1966 – 1971; Stationed at Chu Lai Combat Base, traveled with Miss America 1970 group, served as Deputy Plant Commander at Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant; Received National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Bronze Star Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster

Annual Giving Program

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Irish Classic Golf Tournament
Budweiser of Chattanooga
Chattanooga Hemp
Coca Cola Bottling Company
Educational Outfitters
Michael Hennen
Ken Mara
Joseph Payne
Mark Stolpmann
Chad Varga
Trey White

Athletic Boosters
Jack Berry
Ed Burns
Carrin Family
David & Patty Champion
Chattanooga Party Bus
CHI Memorial
Cintas
Culpepper Family
Chuys & Kidwell Families
EPB
Fillauer Family
Flasch & Murphy Families
Front Runner
Ben Hornsby
Jay Hudson Homes
Legacy Contracting & Equipment
Lesar Family
Ken Mara
Pucketts
Scott, Romeo, Milton Families
Mark Stolpmann
Ryan Stolpmann
Sieglinde Wallis
Williams, Schenk, Moore Families
Willis Family
Carol Wolf

OTHERS

Chattanooga Deanery Operating Fund
Katherine & Nathaniel Bird
Rose Decosimo
Richard Joseph Dorris
Charlotte Ellington
Juan Flores
Brittany Francis
Drs. Ondrej & Ludmila Lisy
Theresa Pollard
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Stevens

Endowment Fund
Payne Carden

Student Lunch Account
Anonymous

Theater
Ruby Falls, LLC

Walter T. & Carol Weller Endowment
Carol Ann Weller '67

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