

# OVMMA

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT





**ABOUT THE COVER:**

Chancellor William P. Tolley conducts an inspection of the troops during the annual Chancellor's Review at Archbold Stadium hosted by the Army & Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps circa 1969.

Photo contributed by John B. Mishko, '71.



# S Syracuse University

## Army and Air Force

# ROTC



### COMMISSIONING CELEBRATION 2024

**ABOUT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

Syracuse University is a private research university that advances knowledge across a broad range of disciplines to drive breakthrough discoveries and breakout leadership. Our collection of 13 schools and colleges with over 200 customizable majors closes the gap between education and action, so students can take on the world. In and beyond the classroom, we connect people, perspectives and practices to solve interconnected challenges with interdisciplinary approaches. Together, we're a powerful community that moves ideas, individuals and impact beyond what's possible.

**OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) serves as Syracuse University's "single point of entry" for all veteran and military related programs and initiatives. It collaborates and coordinates with the university community and stakeholders to best serve veterans, military-connected students, and military family members who are students or employees at Syracuse University. By offering a diverse range of programming, support, and resources specifically focused on our student veterans and their families, OVMA seeks to make the Syracuse University campus more veteran inclusive and relevant for every military-connected student.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT FOR FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS**

The University does not discriminate and prohibits harassment or discrimination related to any protected category including creed, ethnicity, citizenship, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, gender, pregnancy, disability, marital status, political or social affiliation, age, race, color, veteran status, military status, religion, sexual orientation, domestic violence status, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression or perceived gender<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Title IX prohibits harassment or discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity. Titles VI and VII prohibit harassment or discrimination based on race, national origin, or color. Sections 503 and 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination or harassment because of disability. In addition, New York law prohibits discrimination or harassment based on these and other protected categories.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Since Spanish-American War veteran William Herbert Johnson's graduation from the College of Law in 1903, Syracuse University made the goal of earning a college education attainable for veterans and their families. We have supported our students for over 150 years with superior academic programs and support. Today the university is home to tremendous veteran and military-connected programs and initiatives such as one of the longest continuously running Army ROTC programs in the nation, one of the first Air Force ROTC programs to be authorized in the U.S. Air Force, the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP), the Military Visual Journalism Program (MVJ), the U.S. Army's Sergeants Major Academy Fellows Program, the National Security Studies Program (NSSP), and the Wohl Family Veteran Legal Clinic (VLC).

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the original GI Bill, a landmark legislation that enabled World War II veterans to access higher education and pursue the American Dream. As the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) begins celebrating ten years of serving veteran and military-connected students, we renew our commitment to making Syracuse University the "Best Place for Veterans." Our dedication to recruiting, admitting, enrolling, matriculating, graduating, and finding post-graduation careers for veterans and military-connected students aligns with Chancellor Kent Syverud's vision. OVMA stands on firm ground as we look to the future. That bright future includes a current enrollment comprised of 6% of the enrolled student population being veteran and military-connected students, and we are continuing to grow. This milestone reflects the remarkable work of our admissions team, increasing veteran and military-connected student enrollment 300% since the office was established ten years ago. This year, our Army and Air Force ROTC programs commissioned 38 cadets to Second Lieutenants and the ROTC program continues to grow to new enrollment heights every year.

Veteran and military-connected students consistently report their top reasons for choosing Syracuse University are an opportunity to leverage their GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon Program, and the university's sterling reputation supporting veterans and military-connected students. We will continue to provide resources related to academic advising, career development, resiliency support, and community-building. Our OVMA Resiliency Program (ORP) is a newly created program designed to help veteran and military-connected students navigate their educational journey by providing coordinated care and resource support as they transition to university life.

The veteran and military-connected students you see detailed in these pages represent our enduring commitment to the value of Syracuse University. As a veteran and Syracuse University alumnus myself, I feel a profound sense of gratitude to serve alongside a team of professionals with servant hearts as we enable success in higher education and beyond. Please enjoy reading this year's end-of-year report, and join us as we begin celebrating the 10-Year Anniversary of the OVMA this upcoming academic year.

**Go Orange!**

A handwritten signature in orange ink, appearing to read "Ron Novack". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

**Ron Novack, G'20**  
COL, U.S. Army, Retired  
Executive Director, OVMA



# EDUCATION





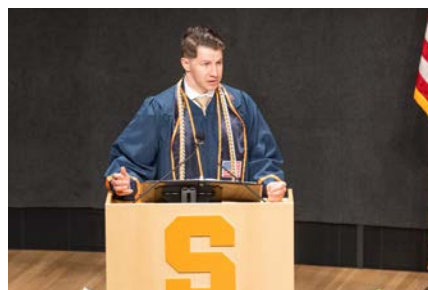


## VETERAN COMMENCEMENT

This year's annual Student Veteran Commencement was celebrated on Friday, May 10th in the NVRC's K.G. Tan Auditorium. Each year, this tradition recognizes student veterans earning undergraduate, graduate, and law degrees. The student veteran graduates who attended the ceremony were addressed by keynote speaker Daniel Hansmeier, '18, and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Dan shared the importance of preparation, resiliency, the human spirit, and the will to never back down.



**Keynote speaker Daniel Hansmeier '18,  
U.S. Marine Corp veteran**



# PAT TILLMAN FOUNDATION



Since 2017, Syracuse University had the honor of being one of 18 university partners with the Pat Tillman Foundation (PTF). This year, Syracuse University had three military-connected students selected as 2024 Tillman Scholars. Zahra Johnson is a U.S. Army Sergeant, an Army ROTC cadet in the Stalwart Battalion, and a graduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences studying Forensic Science. Jude Akpunku is a currently serving U.S. Navy officer and a second-year law student in the College of Law. Benetta Dousuah is a U.S. Army veteran pursuing her master's degree in social work at the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics. These three amazing Tillman Scholars increase the university's total scholar count to thirteen.

## TILLMAN SCHOLARS

### Zahra Johnson

*U.S. Army Sergeant and Army ROTC Cadet  
Syracuse University College of Arts and Sciences  
M.S. Forensic Science (Concentration in Medical  
Legal Death Investigation)*



Growing up in Afghanistan, Zahra Johnson witnessed first-hand the devastating impact of a flawed justice system on a nation and knew she had to make a difference.

Her dream is to contribute to a better and more just world. Zahra holds a BS in Forensic Science and is currently completing a master's degree in the same subject at Syracuse University. The unforeseen death of her uncle in the Afghan Army--and the devastating impact of a flawed and impaired investigation of his death left on her family--prompted her to focus her career on medicolegal death investigation to ensure timely, thorough, and accurate investigations of tragic events.

Zahra enlisted in the US Army as a Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear specialist after graduating from college. Now in the Green to Gold program, she aims to become a Criminal Investigative Division (CID) agent and a death investigator after completing her graduate work, leading and training soldiers on effective investigations. Zahra is determined to dedicate her career to pursuing improvements in the death investigation system in the US Army to ensure that family, military units, and the nation receive clear, accurate, and timely information in the wake of tragedy.

### Jude Akpunku

*U.S. Navy Lieutenant  
Syracuse University College of Law  
Juris Doctor*



Jude Akpunku is a dedicated public servant with a deep commitment to public service and a strong background in defense and data analysis. His academic journey began at the United States Naval

Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by a Master of Science from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2021.

In his current role as a Congressional Fellow, Jude has proven to be a trusted advisor on defense policies, actively contributing to legislative drafting and providing essential guidance on national security matters. Notably, Jude has championed diversity and inclusion through his consultation and lobbying for the H.R.8248 - Diversity in Military Leadership Act. Jude's outstanding military career in the United States Navy includes positions as a Personnel Officer, Action Officer, and Operations Intelligence Officer. He consistently demonstrated strong leadership and analytical skills, managing critical systems and facilitating diplomatic relations. His role as a personnel specialist was vital to the success of Operations Allies Refuge.

Recognized for excellence, and military service, Jude has been honored with the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal twice, and the Outstanding Thesis Award from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Jude's aspirations are rooted in creating a more inclusive and equitable world. With his legal education, he intends to continue serving and advocating for positive change in his communities, reflecting the values and spirit of the Pat Tillman Scholarship.

### Benetta Dousuah

*U.S. Army Veteran  
David B. Falk College of Sport and Human  
Dynamics  
Master of Social Work*



Benetta aims to be a dedicated advocate, working towards breaking down barriers and fostering a supportive environment within the military.

Benetta was born in a resettlement refugee camp in Ghana West Africa. Benetta and her family won the lottery to relocate to the United States when she was ten years old. She grew up in Newark, New Jersey.

After high school, Benetta joined the U.S. Army where she served as a unit supply sergeant. She was later stationed at Camp Humphreys, South Korea where she attended the Army Basic Leader Course and graduated as the class Honor Graduate, ranked #2 in her class of 113.

Currently pursuing a master's in social work at Syracuse University, Benetta aspires to become a social worker with a specific focus on serving as a Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) representative at a behavioral health clinic on a military installation. She aims to improve SHARP processes and investigations.

Benetta currently interns at the Syracuse University Veterans Legal Law Clinic as the inaugural recipient of the Wendy Goidel scholarship. Her internship focuses on assisting veterans dealing with challenges such as homelessness, food insecurity, and disability claims.

Benetta is a member of Social Workers United (SWU). She is currently hosting a drive to collect school supplies for children in Liberia, where seven out of ten children live in extreme poverty and lack learning materials and school supplies.

Benetta resides in Watertown, New York, with her five-year-old daughter.





Army and Air Force

# ROTC

## Commissioning

On Friday, May 10th, thirty U.S. Army and eight U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets officially became the next generation of military officers at the university's commissioning ceremonies held at the National Veterans Resource Center's K.G. Tan Auditorium. The celebrations for this accomplishment were held throughout the day in the NVRC during the third annual Joint Army and Air Force ROTC Commissioning Celebration. During the celebration, the ROTC commissionees were addressed by Chancellor Syverud and presented with the Chancellor's ROTC Leadership Certificate of Achievement Award. This event kicked off commencement weekend, and included Syracuse University staff, colleagues, and the attendance of over three hundred family members and supporters.

### ARMY COMMISSIONING



### AIR FORCE COMMISSIONING





# SVA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In January 2024, fourteen student veterans participated in the Student Veterans of America National Conference or “NATCON.” The 16th Annual Conference provided an opportunity for veteran and military-connected students across the nation to connect, learn, and grow. This year’s conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee, home of the Grand Ole Opry. Veteran and military-connected students have the opportunity to travel to NATCON completely free thanks to the contributions of our donors.





## SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Syracuse University celebrated thirteen graduates of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Fellowship Program. These senior noncommissioned officers earned their master's degree in Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation (IDD&E) from the Syracuse University School of Education. Their graduation officially makes them part of our Orange Nation and marks the completion of the fourth annual cohort since Syracuse University became a partner. The fellows will go on to design curriculum and provide instruction at several of the Army's Centers of Excellence to include the Noncommissioned Officers Leadership Center of Excellence at Fort Bliss, Texas.



## AVECO CONFERENCE

### Appointment as AVECO Vice President

Kari Mickinkle, a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and School Certifying Official in the Office of Veteran Success, has been appointed Vice President of the Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials (AVECO).



**Kari Mickinkle**



AVECO is an association that focuses on supporting and providing education for school certifying officials across the country. The Board of Directors consists of school officials from across the country who focus on providing up to date education and training for its membership. This focus culminates in an in-person conference that is executed by the board in a different city each year. This year's conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mickinkle has served on the board of directors for AVECO for the past year where her focus has been on increasing membership as well as providing support for new members. She has also been charged with maintaining and increasing scholarship funding, which goes to support student veterans and military connected students in need. This position allows Mickinkle to meet with VA representatives and other school officials across the country, to ensure that the Office of Veteran Success stays up to date with best practices for supporting veterans and military-connected students during their time at Syracuse University.



# PROGRAMS



“It is an honor and a privilege to be among those selected to attend the Class of 2023 George W. Bush Institute Stand-To Veteran Leadership Program this year. I look forward to the challenges and educational opportunities that come from attending and can’t wait to begin networking with other dedicated advocates within the veteran community.”

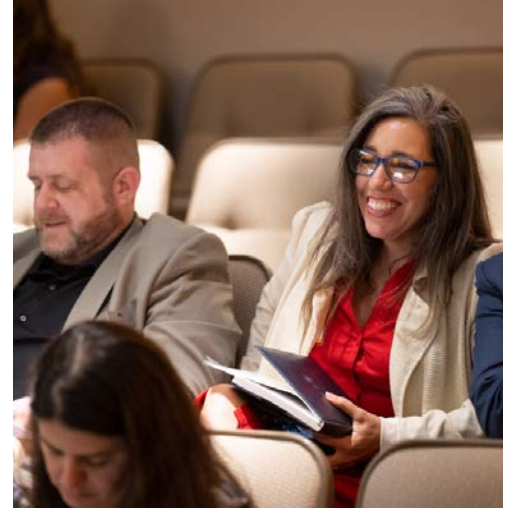
—Jennifer Pluta  
Director of Veteran Career Services



## BUSH INSTITUTE



Jennifer Pluta, the director of Veteran Career Services and a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve, was selected as a scholar for the George W. Bush Institute. The George W. Bush Institute is a nonpartisan policy organization focused on ensuring opportunity for all, strengthening democracy, and advancing free societies.



## PEER ADVISORS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION (PAVE)



Student veterans can build meaningful, lifelong connections through programs on campus like Peer Advisors for Veteran Education (PAVE). PAVE is an initiative focused on linking newly matriculated student veterans with established members of the military-connected community on campus. The result is a close-knit, resilient community with members that can lean on one another to ease with the transition into higher education.





## MILITARY VISUAL JOURNALISM

Founded by Fred Demarest in 1963, Syracuse University's Newhouse School has been the home to the Military Visual Journalism Program. Active-duty servicemembers who are Mass Communication and Public Affairs specialists study at Newhouse for ten months under a contract with the Department of the Navy (DON).

While at Newhouse, students hone their skills and become higher-level storytellers for their respective military branches, taking classes in photography, broadcast and digital journalism, sound, documentary, multimedia, social media, design, and communications.

The students who study at Newhouse are non-commissioned officers. This year, eight Sailors and eight Marines earned a certificate of completion, along with 30 undergraduate credit hours and the ability to matriculate to Syracuse University to earn a bachelor's degree from the Newhouse School of Public Communications.



Above: During the annual Pixels and Prints Workshop, Visual Communication students create a campaign for a nonprofit. This year, the Baldwin Fund was chosen as a client. Several MVJ students were on the winning team. They filmed the “Crush the Can” social media campaign with Alec Baldwin to raise funds to build a National Cancer Institute in Syracuse.

Right: Military Visual Journalism Class of 2024.









# BETTY AND MICHAEL D. WOHL VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

KEEPING OUR PROMISE, HONORING THEIR SERVICE



**F**ounded in 2015, the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic at the College of Law is now in its ninth year of providing quality legal advice to veterans in Syracuse and across New York State. The Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC) provides legal representation to veterans and their families seeking benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or upgrading a military discharge through the various military branches. The VLC is staffed by student attorneys in their 2L or 3L year at the College of Law, many who are veterans themselves, or who have a connection to the military, and a passion for serving veterans.

During the summer semester, students with VLC worked together to write an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Van Dermark v. McDonough*. The case presented important questions about the obligation of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans for their out-of-pocket costs for emergency medical treatment received outside the United States. The students not only raised issues unique to Mr. Van Dermark but also highlighted the need for clearer policies by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs covering veterans seeking medical treatment overseas.

In the fall, the VLC was awarded a \$150,000 Legal Services for Homeless Veterans grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The program is a new grant opportunity to fund legal services providers. The VLC began partnering with the Syracuse VA Medical Center's Health Care for Homeless Veterans program to identify critical needs of veterans struggling with homelessness to connect them with medical care and disability compensation.

Throughout the year, the VLC hosted a Social Work intern from the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics. The new Legal-Social Work Partnership supports social work students interested in working at the intersection of law and social work and promotes a stronger legal system that can address the holistic needs of veterans. Syracuse University Tillman Scholar and U.S. Army Veteran Benetta Dousuah was selected as the first intern for this program.







## MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW SOCIETY

The Military and Veterans Law Society (MVLS) is a student-run College of Law organization that provides law students an opportunity to engage with and assist veterans and military members in the community.

Over the past year, led by President 3L Meghan Wright, MVLS leadership participated in the fall student veteran welcome, the Veterans Day Fun Run, co-hosted the College of Law's sixth annual Veterans Day Celebration, and teamed up with Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY for Valor Day at the New York State Fairgrounds. Before the Thanksgiving holiday, the MVLS distributed 125 free turkeys to area veterans in partnership with Tully Rinckey law firm.

In the fall, the MVLS had the honor of hosting the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals in the Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom in Dineen Hall. The court heard oral argument on a real-world Army appellate case of an Army Soldier convicted of wrongfully broadcasting intimate visual images and making a false official statement. Following the hearing, the three-judge panel, along with the appellate government and defense counsel answered questions from the audience. The MVLS hosted a reception with the court personnel as well as representatives from Fort Drum's 10th Mountain Division Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.







# VETERAN CAREER SERVICES

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND BUILDING FUTURES



**Syracuse University Veteran Career Services (VCS)** empowers military-connected students in their career pursuits by providing essential tools, resources, and support. This year, VCS has actively engaged with employers, alumni, and student veterans, offering career events, workshops, and mentorship programs. These initiatives have opened doors to new opportunities, provided valuable connections, and helped participants leverage their military experience in the civilian job market.

### KEY OUTCOMES | FY 2022-2023

**Response Rate**

**77%**

participated in our outcomes survey, reflecting high engagement.

**Employment Rate**

**100%**

employment among respondents, with 98% currently working.

**Not Seeking Employment**

**1%**

are not seeking employment due to personal commitments.

**Volunteering**

**1%**

are engaged in volunteering.

**Average Salary**

**\$90K**

Graduates earn an average salary with an additional average bonus of \$2,100.

**Continuing Education**

**6%**

of respondents are pursuing further education.

**Military Service**

**18%**

of graduates continue their service in the military.

By fulfilling OVMA’s strategic priorities and using robust data systems, we have ensured 100% placement for undergraduate student veterans in FY 2022-2023. Syracuse University remains dedicated to the success and well-being of our veteran military-connected students, providing the resources, support, and empowerment they need to thrive in their careers and beyond.



# TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEYS: STUDENT VETERANS' EXPERIENCES IN CAREER IMMERSION

Since 2017, Syracuse University's Office of Veteran and Military Affairs' Veteran Career Services team has hosted Career Immersion Trips, at no cost to our students thanks to Paul Dottle, P'14, P'18 and other donors. These trips offer student veterans the chance to explore career opportunities in major metropolitan areas. This year, trips were organized to Washington, D.C., and Boston, MA, to immerse student veterans in the local culture, connect them with industry leaders, and explore internship and job opportunities.

## WASHINGTON, D.C. HIGHLIGHTS



**Featured Employers:** U.S. Secret Service, FBI, Student Veterans of America, Deloitte, Boeing

**Highlights:** Team Dinner, Monuments by Moonlight Tour, Alumni Hosted Dinners

**Overall Satisfaction:** Participants rated the trip highly, often 10/10.

**Impact on Military Experience:** Positive view of civilian workforce value for military skills.

**Networking:** Tangible career planning and networking benefits.

**Consideration for Employment:** Increased interest in D.C. for future employment.

**Gratitude:** Deep appreciation for donor support.

## BOSTON, MA HIGHLIGHTS



**Featured Employers:** CBS Boston, Zipcar, Wellington Management, WinnCompanies, Raytheon

**Highlights:** Team Dinner, Boston Bruins game, Massachusetts State House Tours

**Overall Satisfaction:** High satisfaction, averaging 9.5/10.

**Impact on Military Experience:** Enhanced view of military skills in the civilian workforce.

**Networking:** Valued opportunities with employers like Wellington and Winn Companies.

**Consideration for Employment:** Newfound interest in Boston for future employment.

**Gratitude:** Sincere thanks to donors for funding the trip.



# EMPOWERING STUDENT VETERANS THROUGH NETWORKING

Syracuse University Veteran Career Services (VCS) proudly hosted two major Student Veteran & Employer Networking Receptions, powered by Visions Federal Credit Union, during the fall and spring semesters. These exclusive events provides student veterans with unparalleled opportunities for career exploration, networking, and connecting with potential employers for job and internship opportunities.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

**2** MAJOR NETWORKING RECEPTIONS HOSTED DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR.



**ATTENDANCE**

**75+**

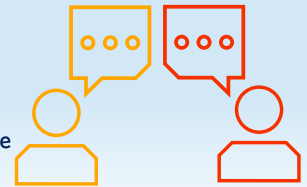
student veterans participated in these events.

**EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT**

MORE THAN

**60+**

companies and **85** representatives were actively involved.



FALL 2023



SPRING 2024





# EMPOWERING TRANSITIONS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INAUGURAL VETERAN CAREER-READY BOOTCAMP & ETIQUETTE DINNER

OVMA's Veteran Career Services continues to expand its support for military-connected students through innovative programming aimed at enhancing career readiness. A highlight of this year was the inaugural Veteran Career-Ready Bootcamp - Powered by the generous support from Visions Federal Credit Union. The Bootcamp is a comprehensive one-day initiative designed to equip student veterans with essential skills and insights to transition successfully into civilian careers post-graduation.



**The Bootcamp, assisted by Veteran Career Services' employer partners, featured a diverse lineup of workshops, panel discussions, and practical exercises tailored to empower participants to navigate the career pathways effectively. Key sessions included:**

- **Unlock Your True Potential: Dive into Self-Discovery with the True Colors Exercise**, led by Lauren Meyer, Recruiting Coordinator at Syracuse University, Maxwell School
- **Crafting a Civilian-Ready Resume: Strategies for Success**, presented by Betty Diaz, Director of Programs and Operations at Paramount Veterans Network
- **LinkedIn Profile Optimization for Success**, guided by Joe Moore, Senior Customer Success Manager at LinkedIn
- **Navigating Federal Employment: A Workshop on Job Search and Application Strategies**, facilitated by Tamara Huyge, VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Elevating Your Professional Image: Building a Personal Brand for Veterans**, delivered by Tim Strong, Director of Branding & Public Relations at Visions FCU
- **Key Factors in Assessing a Job Offer: A Comprehensive Approach**, discussed by Kenda Carfagno, FSCP, Financial Wellness Officer at Visions FCU
- **Elevate Your LinkedIn Presence with Expert Headshots**, photography by Charlie Poag, Communications Manager, Syracuse University
- **Panel Discussion—Transitioning into Civilian Careers**, Panel members: Jeremy Dexter '17, Charlie Poag '22, Eric Kessler '20, G'21, L'27, and Daniel Lewis '18, G'20

Finally, the exclusive Veteran Career-Ready Etiquette Dinner, a highlight of the Syracuse University Veteran Career-Ready Bootcamp, provided significant benefits and learning outcomes for attendees. Led by etiquette educator and author Robert Shutt, who seamlessly blended refined dining with the principles of proper social conduct. This pivotal session not only taught participants the nuances of dining etiquette but also underscored the parallels between military customs and civilian professional conduct.

The Veteran Career-Ready Etiquette Dinner was instrumental in providing student veterans with a comprehensive understanding of professional decorum, significantly enhancing their social and networking skills. This event not only prepared attendees for immediate career opportunities but also instilled lasting confidence and poise that will benefit them throughout their professional journeys.

Looking ahead, OVMA plans to continue hosting the Veteran Career-Ready Bootcamp and the Etiquette Dinner biennially, ensuring ongoing support and preparation for veterans and currently serving students.





## THE OVMA UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP AWARDS

**T**he OVMA takes great pride in announcing the launch of the Undergraduate Internship Award for the 2022-23 academic year. This award program offers student veterans at Syracuse University a remarkable opportunity to overcome financial barriers and fully immerse themselves in transformative internship experiences.

In the 2022-23 academic year, the Undergraduate Internship Award allocated \$54,000 to support 13 student veterans who demonstrated financial need and met the application requirements. Each awardee successfully showcased how the requested funds would directly impact their ability to participate in internships.

By offering the Internship Award, the OVMA is dedicated to empowering student veterans and facilitating their professional growth. It addresses the financial barriers that might otherwise prevent them from making the most of valuable summer internship experiences. This award not only recognizes the unique contributions of veterans but also underscores the university's unwavering commitment to supporting those who have served our country.

It is worth noting, that over \$100,000 in internship awards have been disbursed to student veterans to date. The OVMA extends its congratulations to this year's internship award recipients that are located on the following pages.



## JURGEN BAEZA BERNAL



U.S. Navy  
Computer Science  
Class of 2026  
Internship:  
University of Michigan  
Robotics



## 2024 OFFICE OF VETERAN AND MILITARY AFFAIRS INTERNSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

## BRIAN MCDONALD



U.S. Marine Corps  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
Class of 2024  
Internship: Onondaga County  
Executive's Office



## JOHN N. NIPPER



U.S. Navy  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
Class of 2024  
Internship:  
The Ukrainian  
Veteran Foundation  
(UVF)



## CURTIS CLINE



U.S. Army  
Aerospace Engineering  
Class of 2024  
Internship: Griffiss Institute



## PEI REN



U.S. Army  
School of Education  
Class of 2024  
Internship: Syracuse University,  
Engineering & Computer  
Science



## LAURIE COFFEY



U.S. Navy  
College of Law  
Class of 2026  
Internship: Onondaga County  
District Attorney



## CLIFTON WASHINGTON



U.S. Army  
International Relations and Public Administration  
Class of 2024  
Internship: U.S. Trade and Development Agency



## BENETTA DOUSUAH



U.S. Army  
Social Work  
Class of 2025  
Internship: VA Center



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## MARRILER WILSON



U.S. Air Force  
International Relations and Public Administration  
Class of 2025  
Internship: Millennium Challenge Corporation





# DEFENSE COMPTROLLERSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1952, Syracuse University has been home to the Defense Comptrollership Program (DCP), hailed as the premier Advanced Civil Schooling opportunity for Finance and Comptroller civilians, officers, and Noncommissioned Officers (NCO). The DCP represents a unique cooperative endeavor between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense. The curriculum is a 60-credit hour program that the students complete in 14 months. Graduates are awarded two graduate degrees: a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a Concentration in Business Analytics from the Martin J. Whitman



School of Management, and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the prestigious Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. The DCP serves as a pipeline for senior government leaders with exceptional skills in policy, business analytics, finance, and economics. Since its inception, the DCP program has produced over 2,200 graduates including the graduates in the class of 2024.

## ADMISSIONS

### Departure: Harlie Dalfo



Harlie Dalfo left the Office of Undergraduate Admissions this spring after serving as the Assistant Director of Military-Connected Admission. She accepted a new position as the Director of the Science and Technology (STEP)

program at Le Moyne College.

### Welcome: Amanda Lalonde



In May, Amanda Lalonde joined the Office of Undergraduate Admissions as the Assistant Director of Military-Connected Admissions. She previously worked at the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families

(IVMF) where she most recently served as an Enrollment Services Coordinator. In that capacity she reviewed and processed applications from military-connected individuals seeking enrollment in one of IVMF's many certification programs. Amanda, a Navy veteran, graduated Cum Laude from Syracuse University in 2023 with a BA in Psychology and Forensic Science. Among her many honors while at Syracuse University, Amanda was a Remembrance Scholar and a member of the Renée Crown Honors Program.





# CAMPUS





# WELCOME

## & RESOURCE FAIR

The OVMA hosted its annual Student Veteran Welcome and Resource Fair for the Fall 2024 semester at the NVRC. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and meet new members of our Syracuse University family. This event showcased new initiatives for student veterans and military-connected students offered by the OVMA and Visions Federal Credit Union, as well as resources from the Veterans Legal Clinic and other resources on campus.



## NEW OVMA TEAM MEMBERS

### Michael Drum



**Michael Drum** joined the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs in March 2024 to serve as Operations Manager. Prior to joining the OVMA Team, Michael, a Syracuse native, served in the U.S. Marines and had spent the last six and half years working in education management at the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University. At the

IVMF, Michael spent the bulk of his time serving the national career preparation employment program Onward to Opportunity (O2O). Here he worked with a regionally dispersed team of SU staff that enrolled over 80,000 American servicemembers, veterans, and military spouses, many of whom received professional industry recognized certification as well as employment following their military service. Michael and his wife Colleen have a newborn baby girl; Dakota Ellis.

### Lt. Col. Michael Skarda



The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs welcomed **Lieutenant Colonel Michael Skarda** as the commander of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC), Detachment 535 and Professor of Aerospace Studies at Syracuse University. Skarda has a wealth of operational and combat experience and is a welcomed addition to the team. He is responsible

for recruiting, educating, and overseeing the preparation of officer candidates through a comprehensive commissioning program.

### Kim Leonard



**Kim Leonard** is a seasoned professional with a diverse background, most recently excelling as the Health and Wellness Director at the Hal Welsh East Area YMCA, before coming to Syracuse University to work in her current role as the Veteran Career Services Coordinator. With over two decades of experience, she was a key player in overseeing

a dynamic team of 55 staff members and governing all aspects of the department, including program development, event planning and budget administration.

Before her impactful career at the YMCA, Kim served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1999 to 2001. During her military tenure, she specialized in Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Warfare and Detection. Her military experience instilled a sense of discipline, leadership, and strategic thinking that she brings to her current role.

## MILITARY/VETERAN AWARD



During this year's University Alumni Awards event; Major General (Retired) Peggy Combs '85, H'21 received the Military/Veteran Award for exceptional meritorious service while serving in the United States Military. Combs; an OVMA advisory board member graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology from the College of Arts and Sciences. She earned

the rank of major general and in doing so became the highest-ranking female military officer to graduate from the Syracuse University. She served in the U.S. Army for 33 years eventually becoming the 11th commanding general of the U.S. Army Cadet Command and the 85th commanding general of Fort Knox, Kentucky. Combs retired from military service in a ceremony held at Syracuse University's Hendrick's Chapel in November of 2018, in the same chapel she was commissioned in over 30 years prior. Her accomplishments are truly inspiring, and we are proud to acknowledge her exceptional service and dedication.



## LAUNCH OF 'CUSE VETS CONNECT': ENHANCING COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

This year, the OVMA launched 'Cuse Vets Connect.' This virtual community is tailored exclusively to our veteran and currently serving students and aspires to create a strong sense of community and communication, enhancing both educational and post-educational journeys. This platform is designed to provide students with the latest resources, events, opportunities, and programs crucial for their success. It offers students the opportunity to pose questions, engage in discussions, and actively participate in shaping their educational journey.



# CIVILIAN WALL OF HONOR

## MS. PHEBE S.B. NOVAKOVIC '53

Syracuse University celebrated Ms. Phebe S.B. Novakovic '53 as she was inducted into the Civilian Wall of Honor.

Her tremendous contributions include teaching in Germany's Department of Defense school system and leading Temple University's veteran outreach. Later that day, Ms. Novakovic's daughter (also named Phebe) Chairman and CEO of General Dynamics sat down as part of a fireside chat with Vice Chancellor Haynie. The CEO of General Dynamics shared her vast knowledge and experiences with General Dynamics, the Department of Defense, and the Central Intelligence Agency.



## FIRSIDSE CHAT WITH PHEBE N. NOVAKOVIC



## SPECIAL EVENTS & VIP VISITS

### MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY ANDERSON

On February 6th, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Gregory Anderson, Commanding General of U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum, visited the Syracuse University. Maj. Gen. Anderson had a great discussion with OVMA leadership and Lt. Col. Matt Coyne, commander of the Syracuse University Army ROTC program about veteran and military-connected initiatives at Syracuse University.



### COACH JIM BOEHEIM

Hall of Fame Coach Jim Boeheim visited the National Veterans Resource Center at The Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello Building and met with Syracuse University Army ROTC cadets and student veterans. Coach Boeheim's visit emphasizes his continuing support to our veteran and military-connected students and his commitment to our community. Go Orange!





# VETERANS DAY—HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Every year the nation pauses on November 11th to honor those who have served in the military on Veterans Day. With Syracuse University being renowned as the Best Place for Veterans, it is no surprise the University goes the extra mile to recognize the day annually. The day started with a Veterans Day 5K run. Later that day, Chancellor Kent Syverud was on hand to speak about the University's continued commitment to the military community and introduced the keynote speaker, Laurie "Mocha" Coffey L'25, a naval aviator who amassed more than 2,400 flight hours and 300 carrier landings during her 20 years of service. The Veterans Day program concluded with a spectacular brunch in the Bisignano Grand Hall.



## VETERANS DAY PROFILES

### Jack Pullano '24



#### Why serve?

"Because of my parents, Jim and Kelly. My dad joined the Air Force when he was young like me, doing one enlistment and then

pursuing his education. My parents were always involved in my community growing up, especially with the sports I played. Seeing that community involvement probably instilled in me the service aspect that drives me today."

#### Why Syracuse?

"When I was looking at colleges, I wanted to pursue something I was interested in, and exercise science stood out to me. Syracuse has a strong program."



### Bennetta Dousuah G'25



#### Why serve?

"When I was younger, my mother used to remind me that I wanted to be a police officer. I don't know why; all I know is from an early age I

wanted to serve. The military allows you to go to college for free after your service is over, and that really appealed to me. I've always known I wanted to earn a college degree and be part of something bigger than myself."

#### Why Syracuse?

"I wanted to be somewhere where I could not only feel at home, but still feel like I'm connected to the military family. I chose Syracuse because of its reputation as a military-friendly school, but also because of the pride people take in going to Syracuse. It's like being in the Army."

### Raphael Grollmus '24



#### Why serve?

"My mother, brother and sister were all in the Army. My grandfather on my mom's side, Hank, fought in World War II, while my grandfather on my dad's

side, Paul, fought in the Korean War, so I grew up knowing the importance of service. After I graduated from high school, I enlisted in the Marines' delayed entry program and ended up serving nine years."

#### Why Syracuse?

"When transitioning out of the Marines, I wanted to study something I enjoyed. What we did in the Middle East was probably the most influential work from my military career and I was proud of what I was able to contribute. I wanted to keep doing forensic science and Syracuse has a great forensic science program. All the classes I've taken have been fantastic."





Syracuse University has over 250 veteran and military-connected employees. Within this group are faculty and staff who have served in every conflict since







# Chancellor's Review & Awards Ceremony







On Friday, March 8th, 2024, the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps assembled inside the JMA Wireless Dome for the 107th Chancellor's Review. Chancellor Syverud, Syracuse University's 12th Chancellor, conducted the pass and review of cadets, escorted by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Matthew Coyne and U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Skarka, Commanders of Syracuse's Army and Air Force ROTC programs. Over the course of the ceremony, more than 70 scholarships were presented to cadets, with awards ranging from leadership, marksmanship, fitness, technical proficiency, and academic excellence. Syracuse University is home to one of the longest continuously running Army ROTC programs and one of first Air Force ROTC programs in the nation.







## CHANCELLORS



TOLLEY



SYVERUD

# Army and Air Force

# ROTC

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY'S  
ENDURING COMMITMENT







SERVE



OBSERVE

## Explore every side.

As officers in training. As students preparing.  
At Syracuse University, we take pride in embracing every  
cadet, student veteran, active-duty student and military  
family—in advancing their journeys to successful careers.

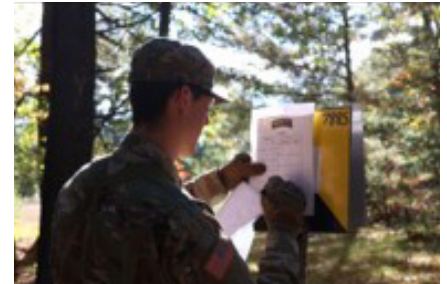




# Army ROTC

Army ROTC at Syracuse University has been creating leaders who go on to rewarding careers in the military and civilian world since 1918. This college leadership program provides students with the discipline, drive, and motivation to earn a commission as second lieutenants in the United States Army. The program also provides funding to make attending Syracuse University affordable. Some of the educational, training, and student experiences this year saw cadets attend Airborne and Air Assault School, the senior staff ride and field training exercises.

## JOINT DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP EXERCISE (JDLX)



U.S. Army ROTC cadets from the Syracuse University Stalwart Battalion participated in a Joint Development Leadership Exercise with cadets from Clarkson and Cornell Universities. The annual exercise took place in April at Fort Drum, NY.

## AIRBORNE SCHOOL



Cadet Lopane attended the United States Army Airborne School at Ft. Moore, Georgia. Lopane learned the basic skills of military parachuting and earned his airborne wings after successfully completing five static line jumps from a military aircraft.



## STAFF RIDE



Senior Cadets from Stalwart Battalion conducted a Staff Ride at Gettysburg battlefield. At Gettysburg, there was a guided tour of the events as they unfolded, and a Cadet-led analysis of the decision-making processes of key leaders over the course of the battle.



## MASK CONFIDENCE TRAINING



Septemeber 2023 - Cadets Fraser, Hajjar, and Wicks attended Air Assault School. Known as the "Army's Ten Hardest Days", Air Assault School is a ten-day training program where participants learn the basics of helicopter operations, sling loading, and rappelling.







# Air Force ROTC

Syracuse University Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) offers students the opportunity to become leaders and earn a commission as second lieutenants in the United States Air Force. While in Detachment 535, cadets must maintain high standards across academics, military training, and personal fitness, but also their discipline, image, and uniform they represent. Some of the educational, training, and student experiences this year included: air defense training in Rome, New York and Hancock Air National Guard Base, Syracuse, New York; running the Syracuse Half Marathon; Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort Drum, New York; Land Navigation, and competing in the annual Battle of New York. With its first commissioned cadet this year into the US Space Force, Syracuse AFROTC continues to be the Flyin' Orange, making strong leaders for America's defense.

## BATTLE OF NEW YORK



Cadets from Detachment 535 celebrate after completing a Group Leadership Project during the Battle of New York 2023.



## CADET BENJAMIN JOHNSON



On Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>, Benjamin Johnson, a computer engineering major in the College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) and a 2023-24 Remembrance Scholar, became Syracuse AFROTC Detachment 535's first commissioned officer into the United States Space Force. In accounting what he liked most about Syracuse University, Lt. Johnson said, "Syracuse has uniquely prepared me for the Space Force, which develops "leaders of character." Such leaders aren't in it for themselves. They embrace the branch's core values of character, connection, courage and commitment. Leaders of character are who our nation turns to during times of uncertainty. That's the kind of person I want to become."

## NOTRE DAME BASKETBALL



Lt. Otto joined Detachment 535 in this year's Flyin' Irish Invitational Tournament (FIIT) hosted by Notre Dame.

## SYRACUSE HALF MARATHON



Cadets Michael Kidger, Nathaniel Jennings, Cecilia Santos, Alexander Whiteman and Cadre Captain Shaw represent AFROTC Detachment 535 in this year's marathon.

## DINING-IN



Det 535 cadets and cadre enjoying this year's dining-in.



## CADET TRAINING

### Hancock Air National Guard Base:

Syracuse AFROTC Cadets receive a briefing on the MQ-9 Reaper at Hancock ANGB, Syracuse, New York.

**Air Defense Training:** Cadets are shown the operations of an Air Battle Manager during the visit to the 224th Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome, New York. They completed Officer Development training over this course of this trip.

**FTX Spring 2024:** Cadets completed annual FTX this year at Fort Drum, New York. As a team, Detachment 535 completed an array of practical application exercises, including downed pilot recovery, land navigation, small arms simulation drills, and a warrior run.

**AFROTC Color Guard, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** Army and Air Force Cadets present the Colors at the Syracuse vs. Clemson basketball game. Air Force Cadets Alexander Whiteman, Isabella Gardea, and Gabriella Tetreault represented Detachment 535.

## HANCOCK BASE VISIT



## AIR DEFENSE TRAINING



## FTX SPRING 2024



## AFROTC COLOR GUARD





## Army and Air Force

# ROTC

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

### Brandon S. Boutwell ('19)



"The Syracuse University Army ROTC program helped me develop time management skills and working relationships that have extended far

beyond campus. In the New York Army National Guard; I am a Signal Corps officer and as a civilian I am a Product Analyst in tactical communications for L3 Harris Technologies. I am proud to be a Stalwart alum."

### Nick Brincka ('20)



"During my time at Syracuse University, I was able to hone and develop my skills as a leader. As a prior service cadet, I had the foundational Army knowledge of

how to be a soldier and succeed at my level, SU and the Army ROTC program took that foundational base and elevated my skillset to become the leader I am today. Through all four years at SU, I was given multiple reps and practical training exercises that have compounded my abilities and allowed me to succeed leading soldiers at the Company and Battalion Level."

### Alex Consolati ('20)



"I graduated in 2020 from the Engineering and Computer Sciences College with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. I am a First Lieutenant currently serving

as a Field Artillery Firing Battery Executive Officer at Fort Bliss, Texas. I believe that balancing the challenging coursework at Syracuse University with the demands of ROTC taught me incredibly important time management skills and work ethic. Go Orange!"

### Jacob Donafry ('22)



"Air Force ROTC Detachment 535 was instrumental in instilling the discipline, empathy, and strategic mindset needed to lead and operate in today's

world. Above all else, leaders at Det 535 shaped me into a resilient officer dedicated to taking care of Airmen, supporting their families, and being the competent warfighter that citizens of the United States deserve. "Battalion Level."

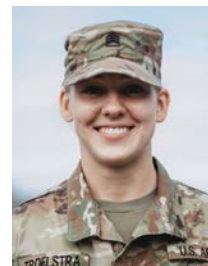
### William Northrop ('19)



"The Stalwart Battalion taught me a multitude of invaluable lessons that I have carried forward with me during my career so far.

Time management, understanding what it means to be a leader, and the importance of networking are just a few of those lessons that come to mind."

### Amanda Troelstra ('22)



"Syracuse University and the Army ROTC program has contributed to my current success in the military and life because it allowed me to see

my potential and how to apply it to real life situations. Being an Active-Duty Platoon Leader has posed its challenges, but my experience and opportunities from ROTC have allowed me to stay flexible and adapt to the ever-changing mission."





# OFFICE OF VETERAN SUCCESS

## CHAD JUNEMAN



Chad Juneman, Office Coordinator for the Office of Veteran Success (OVS) since May 2019, completed his Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) in Business Management through the College of Professional Studies at Syracuse University in May 2024, attending as a full-time student for the 2023-2024 Academic Year all while

working full-time at OVS - Congratulations Chad!

Chad has been accepted to the Maxwell school and will be continuing his education as part of the Executive MPA program starting the Summer of 2024.

## OVS FACTS

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

MORE THAN

**925+**



student certified for **Veteran Administration (VA)** education benefits this academic year.

**OVER 4,400** SUBMISSIONS FOR ORIGINAL, DUAL AND REVISED CERTIFICATIONS TO THE VA



OVER

**360**



**Yellow Ribbon Scholarships Awarded**

**TOTALING OVER \$3M FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR**

APPROXIMATELY

**375 HOURS**

of VA training completed and conference attendance by School Certifying Officials



NEARLY

**\$22M** TOTAL VA PAYMENTS

**July 1st, 2022 - June 30th, 2023**

\$21+M in total VA Payments to the university

**July 1st, 2021 - June 30th, 2022**

\$18M in total VA Payments to the university

## KEITH DOSS



On November 3, 2023 Director of Office of Veteran Success (OVS) Keith Doss was honored as the Hometown Hero during the SU Football vs Boston College game.

United States Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer (Retired) and Syracuse University employee Andrew "Keith" Doss was born

in Syracuse and lives with his family in Jamesville, New York. Keith enlisted and began his active-duty service in 1986 attending bootcamp at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

After basic training, he reported to the USS Savannah (AOR-4) Norfolk, Virginia in January 1987 as a Boatswain's Mate and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, and other locations around the world. He served aboard the Savannah until leaving active duty in October 1989 and transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserves. During his career, Keith held various leadership positions such as Rig Captain and Safety Officer during underway replenishment, Unit Senior Enlisted Advisor, Command Senior Enlisted Leader, and Officer-in-Charge of the Cargo Afloat Rig Team (CART) unit. He was mobilized and deployed to the Persian Gulf in February 2003 in support of combat operations during Operations Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Enduring Freedom. Following the end of major combat operations, Keith was re-assigned to the Sea of Japan operating area in May of 2003.

Keith is a 26-year Navy veteran - serving both active and reserve duty - and officially retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves on October 1st, 2012. Keith's proudest military moment was providing opportunities for junior sailors to become experts in their ratings and ensuring they were recognized and promoted.

Some of his military awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (1 award), Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 awards), Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Navy Battle E Ribbon, and the Navy Sea Service Ribbon.

Keith began working at Syracuse University in 1990 in several positions under the Business, Finance, and Administrative Services from 1990 to 2010. In 2011, he began supporting the university's student veterans and military-connected students as a Veterans Advisor with University College until 2018. Since 2018, Keith serves as the Director of the Office of Veteran Success where he and his team support veterans and military-connected students with processing their Veterans Administration (VA) education benefits.

In 1991, Keith married the love of his life, Karyn Doss. They have three children, daughters Rebecca (Alexandria, VA) and Danielle (Charlotte, NC) and son Adam (Salt Lake City, UT).





# STARS & STRIPES TAILGATE

**S** Syracuse University  
Office of Veteran  
& Military Affairs

THE BEST PLACE FOR VETERANS™  
veterans.syr.edu

GO ORANGE



**A**t the Military Appreciation football game, Syracuse took on the Army Black Knights on September 23, 2023 in the JMA Wireless Dome. Prior to the game, the OVMA hosted its 9th annual Stars and Stripes Tailgate event, a free, invite-only pre-game event for service members, veterans, and their families. More than 750 people signed up for the tailgate, which was hosted at the Women's Building field and featured raffle prizes, an appearance from Otto the Orange and free tickets to the game.

## TAILGATE



**Future Military-Connected Transfer Students**



**Student Veteran Alums**



**Members of the OVMA Team**

## FOOTBALL GAME



**SU Football Team Ready to take the Field on Military Appreciation Day**



**Pregame Contracting Ceremony for Army ROTC Cadets**



**West Point Band Plays with the Syracuse University March Band**



**Medal of Honor Recipient David Bellavia Serving as the Game's Honorary Captain**



**Brian McDonald '24, Inaugural, Recipient of the Schwartzwalder Scholarship**





**September 2, 2023**  
Football vs. Colgate  
U.S. Army CPT Lu Weierbach



**September 9, 2023**  
Football vs. Western Michigan,  
USMC SGT LJ Guerra



**September 10, 2023**  
Women's Field Hockey vs. UCONN,  
U.S. Navy LCDR (Ret) Laurie Coffey



**September 21, 2023**  
Women's Soccer vs. Florida State  
University, U.S. Navy Petty Officer  
2nd Class Chelsea Palmer



**September 23, 2023**  
Football vs. Army, U.S. Army Veteran  
Dr. Nick Armstrong



**September 30, 2023**  
Football vs. Clemson, U.S. Army 1SG  
(Ret) Denise Moore



**October 15, 2023**  
Men's Soccer vs. Clemson,  
U.S. Army CPT Levi Reynolds



**November 3, 2023**  
Football vs. Boston College,  
U.S. Navy SCPO (Ret) Keith Doss



**November 10, 2023**  
Women's Basketball vs. Central  
Connecticut State University,  
U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant  
Thomas Dickerson



**November 10, 2023**  
Women's Volleyball vs. Florida State  
University, U.S. Army 1LT Rebeka  
Eaton



**November 11, 2023**  
Football vs. Pittsburgh, U.S. Army  
Major (Ret) William Watts &  
U.S. Army Veteran Clarence Watts



**November 25, 2023**  
Football vs. Wake Forest,  
U.S. Navy Veteran Frederick Shibel



**January 23, 2024**  
Men's Basketball vs. Florida State  
University, U.S. Navy Capt (Ret.)  
Roosevelt "Rick" Wright



**February 14, 2024**  
Women's Lacrosse vs. Army,  
U.S. Army 1LT Jade Argueta



**February 16, 2024**  
Ice Hockey vs. Mercyhurst,  
U.S. Army 2LT Rebecca King



**February 18, 2024**  
Tennis vs. UMass,  
U.S. Navy MC2 Sophia Simons



**February 28, 2024**  
Men's Lacrosse vs. Army,  
U.S. Army Veteran Brandon Bryant







## STUDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION (SVO)

The Syracuse University Student Veterans Organization (SVO) creates opportunities for veteran and military-connected students to get involved on campus and provide a sense of belonging while building camaraderie. This year the SVO sponsored several events designed to assist veteran and military-connected students to seamlessly become a part of Orange Nation. Some of these events include but are not limited to the annual Chancellor’s Dinner, 2nd Annual Murph Challenge in honor of Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, the retreat to Minnowbrook and the SVO Formal.

### CHANCELLOR’S DINNER



Chancellor Kent Syverud and Dr. Ruth Chen hosted the Syracuse University Office of Veteran and Military Affairs for dinner in the spring semester. This was an opportunity for them to share their appreciation and unwavering commitment to supporting our Syracuse University student veterans and military-connected students. Thank you Chancellor Syverud and Dr. Chen!

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION’S HEROES

The Syracuse University Student Veterans Organization joined forces in this year’s Wreaths Across America ceremony, collaborating with community groups to honor veterans at Oakwood Cemetery. Events like these enable us to serve our community and remember the brave individuals who gave their lives for our nation’s freedom.



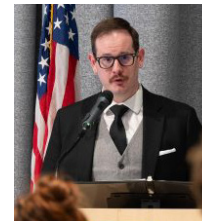


## SVO BALL & AWARDS BANQUET

Syracuse University's military-connected community came together for an evening of celebration during the annual Student Veterans Organization (SVO) Ball & Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 6th, 2024. The year's formal event featured a Gatsby-theme, a formal dinner, guest speaker, awards, as well as a raffle drawing to help raise money for next year's SVO functions. It also welcomed the largest crowd in attendance since the SVO Ball first found a home at the National Veterans Resource Center.

Theodore "Ted" Walker, a U.S. Army veteran and guest speaker of this year's event, is an assistant professor with the Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Walker shared some of his own experience in the military as a U.S. Army ranger with multiple deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Walker also spoke about the importance of having an engaged community for veterans, highlighting the unique camaraderie that exists among those who have served and the underlying purpose of the SVO's existence.

This year, the Danny Facto Student Veteran Work Study Award was presented to Andrew Patterson, a 3L law student in the College of Law. The OVMA Student Veteran of the Year Award was also presented at the banquet, awarded to a student veteran who makes the most standout commitment to the military-connected community at Syracuse University. This year, the award was presented to Raul Rosique '24.



The formal portion of the event concluded with the new SVO board being announced. Elected to the board were: Raphael Grollmus-President, Marriler Wilson-Vice President, Jurgen Baeza-Secretary, Savion Pollard-Treasurer, Tojyea "TJ" Matally-Public Affairs Officer, and Leonel Aviles-Community Outreach Officer.

## STUDENT VETERAN OF THE YEAR

# RAUL "RUDY" ROSIQUE



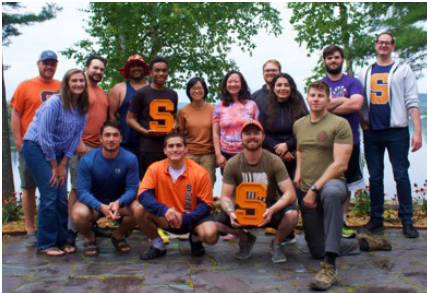
Each year, the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs recognizes a single student veteran for their significant contributions to the veteran community both on and off campus. This year's SVO Executive Board was no exception as it was awarded to Raul "Rudy" Rosique.

Raul "Rudy" Rosique has embedded himself in the student veteran population to make a lasting impact on generations of student veterans. Rudy has been the SVO Secretary for the past two years and he ensure that all the student veterans and military-connected students that he comes across on campus truly have the best college experience. Rudy is approached frequently by students about problems that they are having which speaks volumes about his impact on this campus, along with the trust and rapport that he has built with his peers. Going the extra mile is what sets Rudy apart from his peers and it is also why he will continue to have a lasting impact on the student veteran population, as well as the SU community even after his academic career at Syracuse has come to an end.



## MINNOWBROOK

During the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters, over 15 of our student veteran organization members and spouses stayed at the gorgeous Minnowbrook Conference Center located on the shore of Indian Lake. This beautiful retreat allowed our student veterans to unwind from a tough semester and rejoice with one another. The SVO members built camaraderie over delightful meals cooked by an amazing chef. They also built memories in the game room over rounds of ping-pong, foosball, and shuffleboard. In the evening, they all gathered underneath the porch by the lake and shared stories of their time at Syracuse University. They spoke about what they did right and what they could have done better. These stories told by the upperclassmen gave the newer student veterans an idea of how to get involved faster in the Orange community and why it may be vital for their overall success. Many of our members gathered around to see who could catch the biggest fish. Even though no one caught a fish, the moment was not lost on anyone, and the pictures will be cherished for many years to come. The student veteran annual trip, funded entirely by the OVMA, has quickly become the highlight of the year. This trip to the Adirondack Mountains is one of the many reasons why Syracuse University is the Best Place for Veterans.



## SVO MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

In February 2024, Patty Giles, OVMA's librarian provided a full tour of Bird Library and luncheon to student veterans and the SVO. Here students were given an in-depth overview of the library's tutoring services, Digital Scholarship Space, Government Documents, and other archive collections. To end the tour, the OVMA had the privilege of touring Bird Library's Pan Am Flight 103 exhibit collection.



## MURPH CHALLENGE

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, US Army cadets from the Stalwart Battalion collaborated with the SVO to complete the 2nd annual Murph Challenge in honor of Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy and all those who have lost their lives in the service. The challenge consisted of a one-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, and 300 squats followed by another one-mile run.





## NEW YORK EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR)



On April 10th, leaders from the New York Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) met with Dr. Mike Haynie, Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives and Innovation at Syracuse University, for a tour of the National Veteran Resource Center and to sign a statement of support for reserve and guard service members. This significant gesture reinforces our commitment to honoring and supporting those who serve our nation.

## VETERANS AFFINITY GROUP



Established in 2014, the Syracuse University Veterans Affinity Group (SUVA) is open to all veteran and military-connected employees. Throughout the year the SUVA welcomes Syracuse University employees who have served are dependents or supporters of the military-connected community. This past December the SUVA supported National Wreaths Across America Day at Oakwood Cemetery. In doing so the SUVA joined more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to remember, honor, and teach at more than 4,225 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.





# OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

## OVMA ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Comprised of leaders with diverse and extensive experience in the military, government, business, higher education, and public service sectors, the Board provides advice and counsel to the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs. Their guidance is focused on programs, initiatives, and opportunities designed to advance the educational aspirations of Syracuse University’s veteran and military-connected students.

**Mr. Richard M. Jones ’92, G’95, L’95**, U.S. Army veteran; Trustee and OVMA Board Chair

**MG Peggy C. Combs, U.S. Army, Retired ’85, H’21**; President, Army and Navy Academy

**Mr. Paul Dottle P’14, P’18**, U.S. Army Reserves veteran; OVMA Board Chairman Emeritus

**CSM Gary I. Ginsburg**, U.S. Army Retired ’72

**Lt. Col. Millard Hall Jr.**, U.S. Army, Retired G’88

**Lt. Col. Victor Holman**, U.S. Army, Retired ’82

**Mr. Wilder Leavitt ’86**, U.S. Air Force veteran; Attorney, Law Office of Wilder J. Leavitt

**Dr. Kenneth Marfilus ’11**, U.S. Army veteran; Assistant Dean of the Falk College Office of Online and Distance Education; Associate Teaching Professor in the School of Social Work; Syracuse University

**Mr. Tyrone Muse**, President and CEO, Visions Federal Credit Union

**Mr. Kenneth Quaglio G’91**, U.S. Army veteran; Senior Partner, Kearney

**Mr. Glenn Richardson G’89**, U.S. Army veteran; Executive Consultant, LeaderSages



Left to right: Victor Holman, Millard Hall Jr., Richard Jones, Gary Ginsburg, Mark Westervelt, and Paul Dottle

## Office of Veteran and Military Affairs Welcomes Three New Advisory Board Members

In April, Syracuse University’s Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) welcomed three new members to its Advisory Board.



**Kenneth Marfilus ’11** is the Assistant Dean of the Office of Online and Distance Education at the Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, where he is also an Associate Teaching Professor in the School of Social Work. Marfilus served in the U.S. Air Force Biomedical Science Corps in multiple roles.



**Tyrone “Ty” Muse** is the President and CEO of Visions Federal Credit Union (VFCU), headquarters in Endwell, New York. Muse is a dedicated servant to the local community and the Central New York region, bringing with him more than thirty years of experience in the financial services industry.



**Wilder J. Leavitt ’86** is an attorney with a private practice located in Bethesda, Maryland. After graduating from Syracuse University, Leavitt earned a master’s degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Juris Doctorate from American University. Leavitt served in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft and munitions maintenance officer.



## OVMA Board Member Elected National Vice Commander of Jewish War Veterans



The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) announced in September, it elected its 4th National Vice Commander, Command Sergeant Major Gary Ginsburg, USA, Retired of New York during its 128th Annual National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. National Vice Commander (NVC) Gary Ginsburg has been a life member of both the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History since 2016. Ginsburg is the third generation of his family to serve in the JWV. His grandfather and father were longtime JWV members of Post 131 in Syracuse, NY.

He held multiple leadership positions for the JWV Department of New York following 33 years as a soldier in the U.S. Army. He served both in the states and overseas. Gary Ginsburg retired in the rank of Command Sergeant Major culminating with three assignments at brigade and battalion levels of command. He graduated with honors from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy in 1999 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Syracuse University and a graduate degree using his GI Bill benefits from the University of Southern California.

## Celebrating Outgoing Board Member, Mark Westervelt P'18

We celebrated Mark E. Westervelt P'18 this past spring, after serving seven years on the OVMA Advisory Board. His leadership, dedication, and generosity made an incredible contribution to our work. Mark was presented with a framed university print and glass orange by Executive Director, Col. Ron Novack, U.S. Army Ret.



## OVMA Advisory Board Member Major General Peggy C. Combs '85, H'21, USA Ret.



In April 2024, the Syracuse University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving presented 10 awards to those whose achievements are truly exceptional.

One of these awards is the Military/Veteran Alumni Award which was established in 2019. The Military-Veteran Alumni Award is presented annually to Syracuse University U.S. military service members or veteran alumni who have distinguished themselves through exceptional meritorious service and achievement while serving in the United States military and/or in their post-service careers in the private, business, government, or philanthropic sectors.

### 2024 Military/Veteran Alumni Awardee

Major General (Maj. Gen.) Peggy Combs hails from Oriskany, New York, and was commissioned as a Regular Army 2nd Lt. in the United States Army Chemical Corps in May 1985, as a distinguished military graduate of the ROTC program at Syracuse University. Throughout her 33-year service tenure, MG Combs served in a variety of leadership and staff positions at the tactical, operational and strategic levels. General Officer assignments included the Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Cadet Command (ROTC) and Fort Knox, Fort Knox, Kentucky; the 27th Chief of Chemical and Commandant, U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Acting Commanding General, U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; The Commanding General of U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, Kentucky; and the Chief of Staff, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Maj. Gen. Combs holds a B.S. from Syracuse University, M.S. from Saint Mary College, a M.S.A. from the U.S. Army War College, and in 2021 was awarded a Doctorate of Laws Honoris Causa from Syracuse University. MG Combs retired from the U.S. Army in December 2018 and now serves as the president of the Army and Navy Academy, Carlsbad, CA. She is honored and extremely humbled to accept this prestigious award, but most proud to be a proud alumna of Syracuse University—as its dedication to veterans and their families leads our great nation. Our University's commitment to veterans transcends gratitude; it honors the selfless sacrifice made by all veterans and family members. Thank you to Chancellor Syverud for making SU the best place for veterans.







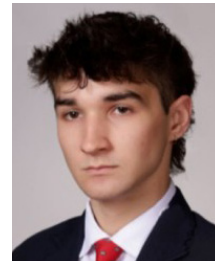
## DANIEL AND GAYLE D'ANIELLO ENDOWED FLORENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Spending a semester abroad can be a formative experience for college students, both traditional and non-traditional students alike, but military-connected students are often unable to enjoy the experience due to limitations with the G.I. Bill. However, thanks to a new scholarship exclusive to Syracuse University, three military-connected students will spend spring semester studying in Florence, Italy, with funding from one of the prominent supporters of the University's initiative to being the "Best Place for Veterans."

The Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello Endowed Florence Scholarship is named after U.S. Navy veteran Daniel D'Aniello '68, H'20 and his wife, Gayle. D'Aniello studied abroad in Florence, Italy, when he was a student at Syracuse, and seized the opportunity to ensure other military-connected students at his alma mater could also benefit from studying overseas. The spring 2024 recipients are pictured above.



**Jean M. Castilla '25**  
New York Air National  
Guard



**Christian A. Margita '25**  
Military Dependent



**Grace H. Newell '25**  
Military Dependent

### Life Trustee Daniel D'Aniello '68, H'20 Honored

## KEYS TO THE CITY OF FLORENCE, ITALY



Alumnus, philanthropist and Life Trustee Daniel D'Aniello '68, H'20 was celebrated by the city of Florence, Italy, for his dedication to the city and his support of the Syracuse Abroad program in Florence.

In a ceremony hosted by the mayor of Florence, D'Aniello was presented with the keys to the city. University leadership, students, faculty and staff and local dignitaries attended the ceremony on Oct. 19 in the city's town hall, Palazzo Vecchio.

D'Aniello, an alumnus of the Florence abroad program, has recalled his time in Florence as some of the most memorable of his college career and his recent support of the program and future generations of students reflects his deep connection.



# GIVING WITH IMPACT

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY DONORS WHO ARE PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

## **Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Endowed Florence Scholarship**

Established in 2022 by Mr. Daniel A. ’68, H’20, P’04 and Mrs. Gayle V. D’Aniello P’04

## **Dottle Family ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship**

Established in 2015 by Mr. Paul M. Dottle P’14, P’18, Mrs. Valerie E. Dottle and family

## **Gerald B. Faigle Jr. and Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship**

Established in 2019 by Mr. Gerald B. Faigle, Jr. ’58, ’59 and Mrs. Roberta M. Faigle ’60

## **Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans**

Established in 2020 by Mr. Barry G. Flanik G’93, Mrs. Kirsten P. Flanik, and family

## **Millard Hall, Jr. and Lynette G. Hall, DNP Minority Veteran Scholarship**

Established in 2020 by LTC Millard Hall, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired G’88 and Dr. Lynette G. Hall ’89

## **Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military Connected Students**

Established in 2020 by Mr. Wilder J. Leavitt ’86 and Ms. Mary P. Morningstar

## **James N. Lyons ’03 Sons and Daughters Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Established in 2007 by Mr. Marc Klein ’03, Ms. Hillary Trent ’02, and other donors

## **Louis A. and Patricia H. Mautino Veteran Endowed Scholarship**

Established in 2019 by Mrs. Patricia H. Mautino ’64, G’66 and Mr. Louis A. Mautino ’61, G’62

## **Lucy and Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship Endowed Fund**

Established in 2016 by Mr. Ernest L. Herrman P’18 and Dr. Kathleen Herrman P’18

## **Lt. Colonel Michael Novakovic ’55, USAF Ret. Endowed Scholarship**

Established in 2023 by Ms. Phebe S.B. Novakovic ’53, Ms. Phebe N. Novakovic, and Mr. Michael B. Novakovic

## **C.J. Rapp Pittman Scholarship for Military Undergraduates**

Established in 2022 by Ms. C.J. Rapp Pittman ’63

## **Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents**

Established in 2021 by Mr. F. Glenn Richardson G’89, Mrs. Carol Richardson, and family

## **ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship**

Established in 2013 by Col. John L. Litzenberger USAF, Ret. ’72, P’00 and Mrs. Barbara H. Litzenberger ’71, P’00

## **Spall Endowed Scholarship Fund for Veterans**

Established in 2013 by Mr. Theodore F. Spall, Jr. ’69 and Mrs. Suzanne A. Spall

## **Patricia and Melvin Stith Graduate Student Fund**

Established in 2011 by Dr. Melvin T. Stith G’73, Ph.D. ’78, P’05 and Dr. Patricia L. Stith G’77, P’05

## **The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement**

Established in 2022 by Syracuse University, with a pledge from Mr. James Lee ’75 and Mrs. Lou Ann Lee to support the award from 2022 through 2026.

## **The Captain Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder Award for Leadership and Service**

Established in 2023 by Mr. Theodore A. Lachowicz ’72 and Mr. Clifford J. Ensley ’69, ’70, G’71

## MAKING AN IMPACT



“Being a student veteran at a university, that carries such a respected name has such incredible appreciation to those who have served, fills me with the same pride I had while putting on the uniform everyday.”

**JACK PULLANO ’24**  
U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN & STUDENT

For more information on how you can join these leaders in supporting military-connected students through a named scholarship, please contact us at (315) 443-0141 or by email [vlf@syr.edu](mailto:vlf@syr.edu)



## OVMA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024

### **The Daniel & Gayle D’Aniello Endowed Florence Scholarship**

- Christian Margita '24
- Jean Castilla '24
- Grace Newell '24

### **Dottle Family ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship**

- Isabella Gardea '27
- James Hrdy '26
- Byron Levi '25
- Bradley Miller '25
- Aizhan Moore '26
- Alejandro Parra '24
- Gabriel Tetreault '26
- Jose Venegas '25

### **Gerald B. Faigle, Jr. & Roberta M. Faigle Student Veteran Endowed Scholarship**

- Latisa Kennebrew G'24

### **Flanik Family Scholarship for Student Veterans**

- Schuyler Nesbitt '24
- Michael Wilder '26

### **Captain Michael William Kryzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement**

- Army ROTC Cadet Micah Collins '25

### **Wilder J. Leavitt and Mary P. Morningstar Scholarship for Military-Connected Students**

- Anthony J. Giovanni '25
- Matthew McCarthy '24

### **James Lyons '03 Sons & Daughters Memorial Scholarship Endowment**

- Khloe Gage '25

### **Louis A. & Patricia H. Mautino Veteran Endowed Scholarship**

- Wyatt G. Bush '24
- Nicholas J. Miller '24

### **Lucy & Joseph Napoli Veterans Scholarship Endowed Fund**

- Justin Sauve '25

### **Lt. Colonel Michael Novakovic '55, USAF Ret. Endowed Scholarship**

- Jack M. Pullano '24

### **C.J. Rapp Pittman Scholarship for Military Undergraduates**

- Mason A. Weber '24

### **Richardson Family Scholarship for Military Family Members and Dependents**

- Arren L. Cuyler '24

### **ROTC Cadet Endowed Scholarship**

- Emily M. Weaver '24
- Giovanna E. Barsalona '24

### **Spall Endowed Scholarship Fund for Veterans**

- Joshua Bejenaru '24
- Ulysses Briggs '26
- Stephen Crossley '25
- Joanna Delacruz '25
- Tyler Forti '25
- Ryan Peluso '25
- Mykhaylo Rafalsky '24

# BEN SCHWARTZWALDER AWARD

## Celebrating Ring of Honor Inductee, Coach Ben Schwartzwalder and The Captain Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder Award for Leadership and Service

**O**n September 23, 2023 at halftime at the JMA Wireless Dome between Syracuse football and fellow New York state team Army, legendary Hall of Fame head coach and World War II hero Ben Schwartzwalder was officially inducted into the SU Athletics ring of honor.

Schwartzwalder was the head coach of Syracuse football for 25 years and won the National Championship in 1959. He was also a decorated WWII hero. A paratrooper, he parachuted onto Normandy Beach on D-Day and was among the first group of soldiers that jumped in 1944. Per cuse.com, he rose to the rank of major and ultimately retired as a lieutenant colonel. Schwartzwalder “was awarded a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, four battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation for his distinguished service.”

In honor and memory of Coach Schwartzwalder, Syracuse University established The Captain Floyd “Ben” Schwartzwalder Award for Leadership and Service. The award will be presented annually to a student veteran or military family member enrolled at Syracuse University who through their actions and accomplishments embodies Ben Schwartzwalder’s exemplary leadership and service to his country and others. The funding was provided by a generous gift from Mr. Theodore A. Lachowicz '72 and Mr. Clifford J. Ensley '69, '70, G'71.

The 2023 recipient was U.S. Marine Corps veteran Brian McDonald, '24, a student veteran at Falk College of Sport & Human Dynamics.





## JAMES LYONS '03 SONS & DAUGHTERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

The OVMA hosted Mr. Bob Lyons and the Syracuse Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Inc. The Delta Kappa Epsilon brothers raised funds in support of the James Lyons '03 Sons & Daughters Memorial Scholarship Fund. 1st Lt. James Lyons was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon and graduated with an undergraduate degree in biochemistry in 2003. Lyons was killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 and is believed to be the first Syracuse University graduate killed in the conflict. His friends and family established the scholarship to provide aid for the children of fallen or disabled veterans. It was wonderful to see everyone come together for such a meaningful fundraising cause.



Mr. Bob Lyons and the Syracuse Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Inc.



1st Lt. James Lyons

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the donors who generously supported the James N. Lyons '03 Sons & Daughters Memorial Scholarship Endowment between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Your gifts honor James N. Lyons' legacy and provide invaluable support to our military-connected students.

*Thank you for your kindness and continued generosity.*

Charles A. Averill '23  
Amber Bailey  
Ms. Melea Bartley  
Stephen Cerminaro  
Laura A. Dano  
Mrs. Frances A. Donovan  
Mr. William G. Dostman III '05  
Friends of Syracuse University  
Mrs. Jennifer W. Gathman '04  
Jordan Glazier  
Ms. Tina M. Kapral G'15, P'24  
Mr. Scott Kapral P'24  
Melinda Lothes  
Robert Lothes  
Mrs. Marcia B. Lyons P'03  
Mr. Robert E. Lyons P'03  
Mr. Joseph F. Mahota '86

Sam M. Moore '23  
Ms. Melissa R. Reider  
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Mr. Brian A. Sereno '01  
Mrs. Jessica L. Sereno '01  
Constance Simpson  
Mr. Don C. Vassel '89, P'22, P'26  
Mrs. Rachel E. Vassel '90, G'21, P'22, P'26  
Mrs. Cheryl T. Wicks P'25  
Mr. Michael D. Wicks P'25  
Dara Williams

*If you would like your recognition name to appear differently in future publications, please let us know. We are happy to accommodate your preferences. Kindly email us at [vlf@syr.edu](mailto:vlf@syr.edu).*

### SYRACUSE FANS RAISED

# \$1,125.00

at the Syracuse vs. Clemson football game for the James N. Lyons '03 Sons & Daughters Memorial Scholarship



# COACH K AWARD

## The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement

In 2022, in honor of Mike “Coach K” Krzyzewski’s retirement, Syracuse University established The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement recognizing his commitment to service and his military service. Mike “Coach K” Krzyzewski’s is a Naismith Hall of Fame coach, a five-time national champion as Head Coach at Duke University, and a six-time gold medalist as head Coach of the U.S. Men’s National Team. But what you may not know is he is also a veteran. Krzyzewski separated from the military in 1974 as a captain, following his graduation from West Point in 1969.

The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement will now be presented annually to a Syracuse University student veteran, serving military member or a military family member enrolled here, who through their actions and aspirations embodies Krzyzewski’s public and demonstrated commitment to the virtues of honor, empathy and servant-leadership. The Krzyzewski Award honoree will be not only be an exceptional student but also a leader on the campus and in the community.

The Captain Michael William Krzyzewski Award for Leadership and Civic Engagement is made possible through an annual gift from Jim Lee '75 and his wife, Lou Ann Lee.

The 2024 recipient of the award is Micah G. Collins '25. In Micah’s 11 years of service he would serve in the XVIII Airborne Corps G2 and the Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion (RMIB), 75th Ranger Regiment. During his time in the 75th Ranger Regiment, Micah deployed a total of six times, received several awards and recognitions, and took part in instrumental training that would shape his leadership philosophy. In the spring of 2023, the Army selected Micah (a Sergeant First Class in the Army) for the Green to Gold Active-Duty Option which he chose and was accepted to Syracuse University, because of their strong military connections and faculty. He is currently pursuing a dual graduate degree in Public Administration and International Relations.



# HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE

## DR. JOSÉ DIMAS TORRES-LABAWLD G'59

Inducted into the Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello National Veteran Resource Center, Hall of Honor on September 23, 2023.

**B**orn in Puerto Rico, Torres-Labawld was drafted in the U.S. Army in 1951 and was assigned to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the “Borinqueneers.” He deployed to Korea, where the Regiment participated in some of the fiercest battles of the war to recover and retain South Korean territory lost to the enemy. Discharged from the military in 1953, he returned to Puerto Rico serving eight years in the U.S. Army Reserves. In 1957, he was selected to attend Syracuse University and graduated with a master’s degree in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He returned to Puerto Rico and worked for the Office of the Governor. He had a significant impact on increasing the economic development of the entire island prior to starting a distinguished 35-year career in academia after earning his Ph.D. in 1973. In 2016, Dr. Torres-Labawld was awarded The Congressional Gold Medal by President Barack Obama for his service as part of the 65th Regiment.

### THE BORINQUENEERS



In August 1950, Puerto Rico’s 65th Infantry Regiment landed at the port city of Pusan on the Korean Peninsula’s southern tip, where United States forces had been holding a defensive perimeter against the Communist North Korean invaders. The 65th was sent into action immediately around the vital port of Hungnam in support of the United States Eighth Army and the 1st Marine Division, with attached British Army units. They had become overrun and were completely encircled. In one of the greatest fighting retreats in history, the outnumbered marines battled their way south to the coast. The first friendly troops they saw on the frozen ridgetops were the Puerto Ricans of the 65th Infantry Regiment. The Puerto Ricans supervised the evacuation of Hungnam, finally withdrawing themselves on Christmas Eve, 1950.





## VISIONS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED DURING MILITARY-CONNECTED ORIENTATION EVENT



The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) hosts a new student orientation and resource fair exclusively for military-connected students each semester. This year the OVMA welcomed representatives from Visions Federal Credit Union. During the orientation, Visions Federal Credit Union’s Director of Branding and Public Relations, Timothy Strong, announced a new partnership with the OVMA to deliver more robust programs and services for military-connected students. “We are proud to partner with Syracuse University’s Office of Veteran and Military Affairs to support student veterans,” said Strong. “This impactful program is a natural fit for our mission of helping people achieve their financial goals. We appreciate the commitment and sacrifice of our veteran and military-connected communities and are committed to providing both with the resources they need to succeed.” The program, funded by Visions Credit Union, will help support access to tutoring, upskilling and financial readiness resources in addition to enhancing existing career services and other programs offered by the OVMA.

### Visions Federal Credit Union Opens Financial Readiness Kiosk in NVRC

On January 12, 2024, Visions Federal Credit Union formally opened its financial-readiness kiosk area at Syracuse University’s National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC). The financial-readiness kiosk offers modules, online resources, and an event calendar to help navigate financial challenges and achieve long-term economic stability in a convenient and interactive way. The financial-readiness kiosk is part of the Visions Student Veteran Success Program, which provides academic resources and professional-advancement services to the military-connected community at Syracuse University, benefiting enrolled student veterans and their families.



### OVMA Hosts First Veteran Career-Ready Bootcamp, Powered by Visions Federal Credit Union

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs (OVMA) hosted its inaugural Veteran Career-Ready Bootcamp at the National Veterans Resource Center. This career-preparation event brought together student veterans for a daylong series of classes, panel discussions and practical application exercises with one focus: how to successfully launch a career after graduation. The success of the event was partially attributed to the support of OVMA’s recent corporate sponsor, Visions Federal Credit Union. “Visions was thrilled to support the Veteran Career-Ready Bootcamp. Programs like this are exactly why we saw a partnership with the OVMA as a perfect fit,” says Timothy Strong, director of branding and public relations for Visions Federal Credit Union. “The continued emphasis on providing the military-connected community with skills to benefit them in and out of the classroom fits perfectly with our mission.”



## WALL OF HONOR: CIVILIAN CHAMPIONS

Syracuse University has made significant accomplishments in providing access to higher education for veterans and military family members since the days of World War I. While the overall impact of those efforts is immeasurable, they did pave the way for the establishment of the D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families and Office of Veterans and Military Affairs. In honor of their contributions, Dr. Mike Haynie, vice chancellor and founder and executive director of the D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), established the Civilian Champions Wall of Honor in recognition of the accomplishments by those civilian supporters who have tremendously impacted the University’s goal of being the best place for veterans.

### CIVILIAN WALL HONORARIES

After the initial installation of the first four honorees earlier in 2023, three additional civilians were recently inducted for their profound impact upon the lives of the military-connected community across the nation.



**SELENE MARTIN**

Associate Vice President, Corporate Affairs, CareSource Military & Veterans was inducted to the Wall of Honor for her long-standing commitment to veterans and military families, particularly regarding mental health and economic mobility.



**MAUREEN CASEY**

Chief Operating Officer, D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) was inducted for her successful leadership of the IVMF which serves over 20,000 veterans and military families a year.



**PHEBE NOVAKOVIC '53**

Addition to the Wall of Honor comes after a lifetime of dedication to veterans and education. Her earliest days of support came from writing letters to her cousin during World War II. Her cousin, who served in the U.S. Army in the European theater, stated that her commitment to writing him regular letters was a constant source of hope and inspiration for him, and his unit, while overseas.

## CALLING ALL ALUMNI—JOIN THE WALL OF SERVICE



The “Wall of Service” inside of the National Veteran Resource Center showcases the individual stories of Syracuse University’s current military-connected students, veteran alumni, and employees using self-submitted content. These stories play an important role in making Syracuse University the best place for veterans.

To share your information on the Wall of Service, scan the code to complete the form.



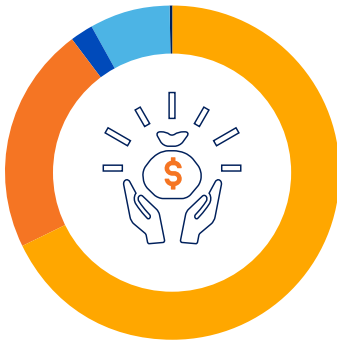


# ANNUAL GIVING IMPACT

AT A GLANCE



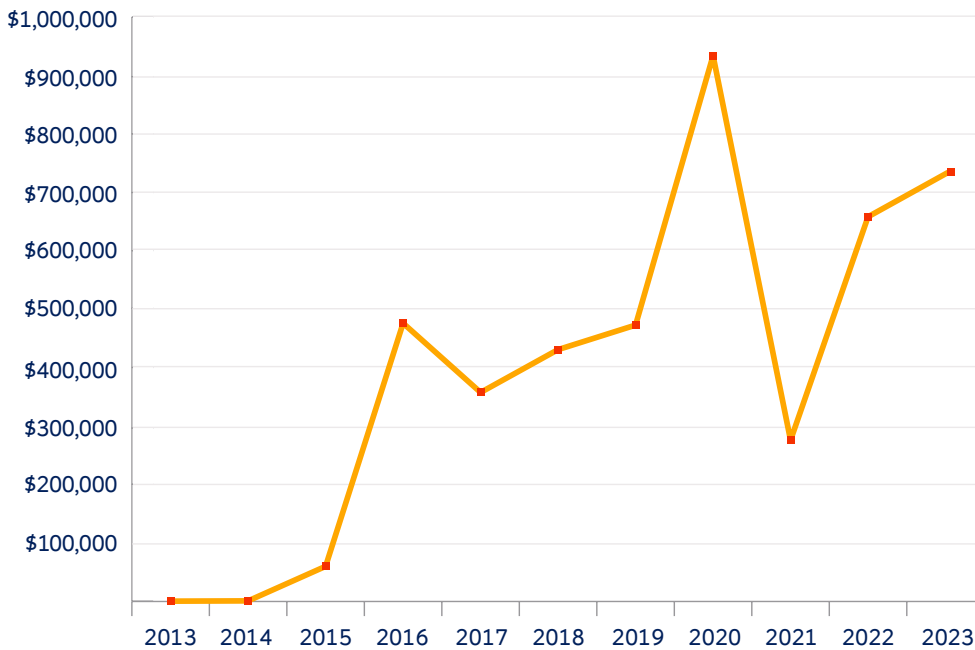
## FUNDING DISTRIBUTION



- Student Veteran Academic Success Program Fund (68%)
- Veteran Legacy Fund (22%)
- All Military-Connected Scholarship (8%)
- ROTC Professional Development Fund (2%)
- Student Veteran Internship Fund (.02%)

**TOTAL SUPPORT: \$715K**

## GROWTH OF ANNUAL GIVING



SUPPORT OF OVER

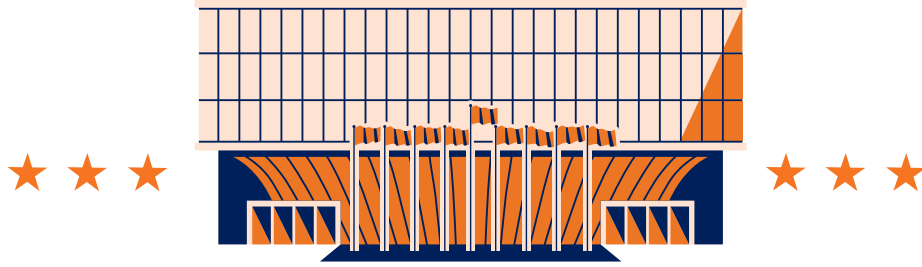
**500+**  
DONORS

**33** OVMA VETERAN LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

**15** CORPORATE PARTNERS

**\$410K** IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO **37** MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS IN 2023-2024

**\$25K** IN EMERGENCY FUNDING PROVIDED TO STUDENT VETERANS & MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS IN NEED



# Veteran Legacy Fund

The Veteran Legacy Fund provides vital, unrestricted support to the Syracuse University military-connected community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the donors who generously made a gift to the Veteran Legacy Fund between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Your support makes a profound difference in the lives of our military-connected students and their families.

*Thank you for your unwavering generosity.*

## Organization Donor Roll

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## MAKING AN IMPACT



“Syracuse has enabled me to combine my passions for space exploration and computer engineering into a dream job. Whether I become a “lifer” in the military or eventually join a civilian company, I’m going to be happy. Syracuse has uniquely prepared me for Space Force, which develops “leaders of character.”

**BENJAMIN JOHNSON '24**

2LT, UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

## NATIONAL VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER DONOR ROLL



The NVRC hosts many visitors and alumni each year. OVMA, Executive Director, Col. Ron Novack, U.S. Army (Ret.), gave a personal tour to Dr. Barbara M. Tagg '69, G'70, G'97 and Mr. David Tagg, Sr. '69

The National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC) at Syracuse University stands as a premier national model of collaboration among academia, government, and community, dedicated to empowering those who have served in defense of our nation. We would like to thank the following donors whose generous capital support between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, has contributed to this historic initiative.

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# SENIOR CLASS GIVING CAMPAIGN

The Senior Class Giving Campaign is an initiative led by student ambassadors to inspire their peers to make a gift in celebration of their senior year. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the donors who supported the Senior Class Giving Campaign between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. We are deeply grateful to those listed below for their generosity and commitment to the Class of 2024.

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## GIVING DAY—MARCH 27, 2024



Syracuse University celebrated One Day For Orange!

The message of the day was “It takes ONE”—one person who chooses to drive innovation, advance research and provide opportunities for the next generation of changemakers. ONE gift to OVMA can make all the difference.

Thank you to the 63 donors that raised \$40,481 for military-connected students by donating to the Veteran Legacy Fund!

**63**  
DONORS

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## MAKING AN IMPACT



“For the student veterans at Syracuse, there are so many tools and resources available to us. Many veterans I talk with didn’t know all of the resources they had when they went back to school, but that’s where Syracuse has excelled. They take care of their veterans.”

## RAPHAEL GROLMUS ’24

U.S. MARINE CORPS VETERAN & STUDENT

## VETERAN LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Veteran Legacy Scholarship Fund provides vital financial aid to the Syracuse University military-connected community. We extend our sincere thanks to the donors who generously made a gift to the Veteran Legacy Scholarship Fund between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. We are deeply grateful to those listed below for their contributions and continued generosity.

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Members of the Veteran Legacy Fund Leadership Circle are a dedicated group of donors who shape the future of veteran and military-connected students at Syracuse University through their support. By making a gift of \$2,500 annually to the Veteran Legacy Fund, members become part of the Veteran Legacy Leadership Circle and the Syracuse University Hill Society. We extend our deepest gratitude to those listed below for their generous support and leadership.

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Army and Air Force

# ROTC REUNION

## First Annual Syracuse University Army and Air Force ROTC Reunion

On September 29th, ROTC alumni, current cadets and commanders attended the First Annual Syracuse University Army and Air Force ROTC Reunion held at the National Veteran Resource Center during Orange Central. It was an exclusive networking reception followed by remarks and updates from Dr. Michael Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives & Innovation at Syracuse University; Lt. Col. Matthew Coyne, Army ROTC, Professor of Military Science, and Lt. Col. Michael Skarda, Air Force ROTC, Professor of Aerospace Studies, Commander Det 535. Over 50 alumni were in attendance reminiscing and renewing friendships as well as making new ones.



## ROTC CADET ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Led by Col. John Litzenberger, USAF, Ret. '72, P'00, a dedicated group of SU ROTC Alumni have established The ROTC Endowed Scholarship Fund at Syracuse University. This initiative spans over seven decades of alumni, from the 1960s to the present day, and embodies the characteristic "Syracuse Team effort" to provide financial scholarships to ROTC cadets. In May 2023, we celebrated the 106th consecutive year of this tradition. If you would like to join us in supporting this effort, please email us at [vlf@syr.edu](mailto:vlf@syr.edu) or call 315.443.0141.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the donors who generously contributed to the ROTC Endowed Scholarship Fund between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.

- Mr. Ronald H. Ajemian '63
- Mrs. Dorothy D. Ajemian '70
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- Mr. Justin F. Culkowski '73, G'83, P'96
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## ROTC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

In 2021, Maj. Gen. Peggy C. Combs, U.S. Army, Retired '85, generously launched the ROTC Professional Development Fund. Gifts to this fund empower aspiring cadets to enhance their leadership, management, team building, and communication skills, unlocking their potential as future leaders. The ROTC Professional Development Fund supports additional leadership training and activities that enrich the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. It provides cadets with opportunities for professional growth through staff rides, retreats, lectures, and seminars, enabling them to effectively inspire, develop, and lead others. We extend our gratitude to the donors who supported the ROTC Professional Development Fund between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. We express our heartfelt thanks to the individuals listed below for their generous contributions and steadfast commitment to Syracuse University's ROTC Program.

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## HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs is the recipient of many gifts each year that honor or memorialize our friends, patrons and loved ones.

We are grateful to the following who made such gifts between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

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Mrs. Barbara H. Litzenberger '71, P'00, Col. John L. Litzenberger USAF Ret. '72, P'00 in Honor of Pvt. Dennis McGuire, 185 New York Regiment Civil War

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Joseph M. Pinjuh Esq. '88, P'24 and Ms. Lori A. Pinjuh L'96, P'24 in Honor of Joseph M. Pinjuh II.  
Thanks for your service DP!

### IN MEMORY OF

Mr. Justin F. Culkowski '73, G'83, P'96 and Dr. Margaret G. Culkowski '74, G'82, Ph.D.'90, P'96 in Memory of Gary A. Scott

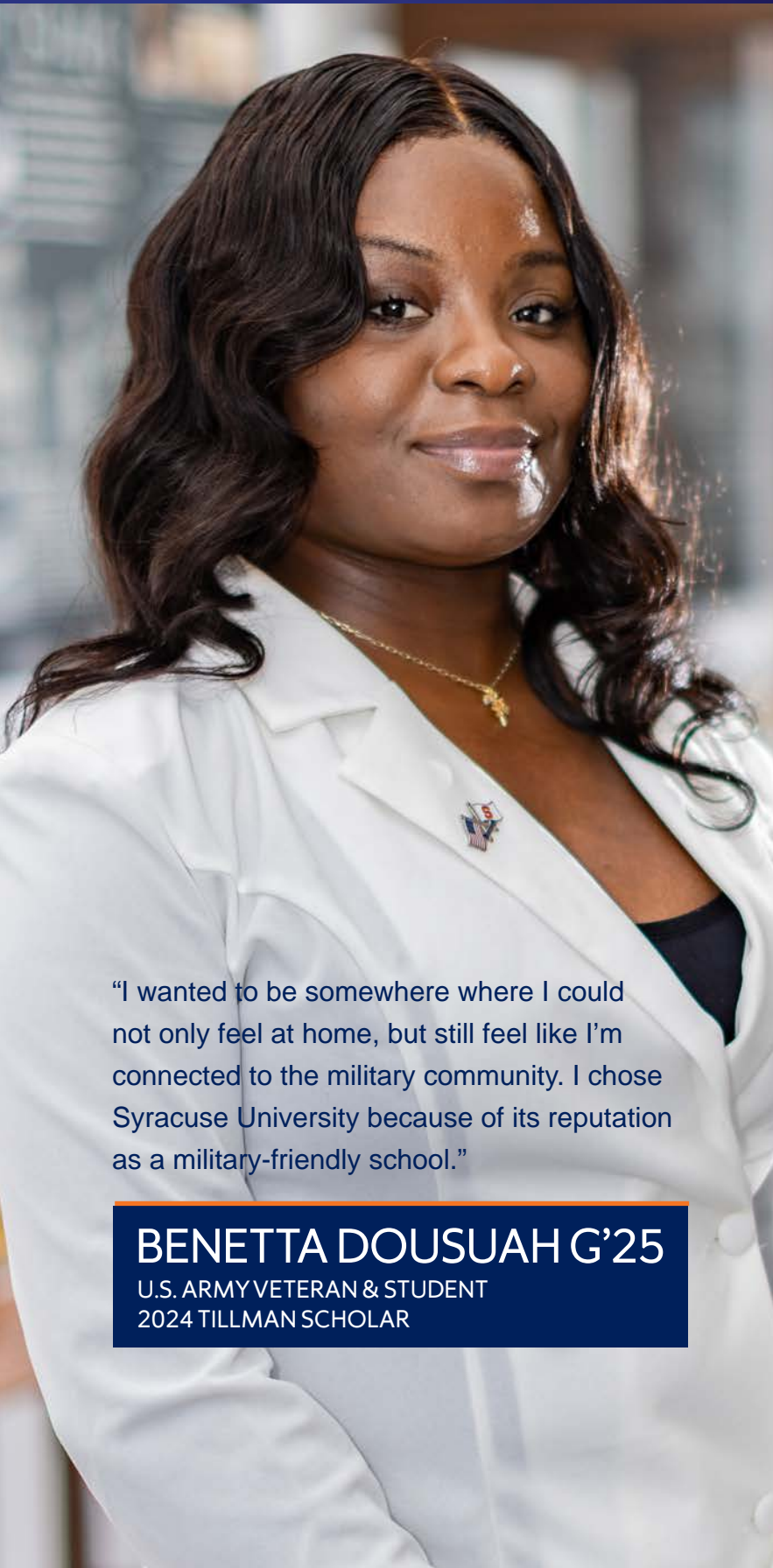
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# GET INVOLVED



“I wanted to be somewhere where I could not only feel at home, but still feel like I’m connected to the military community. I chose Syracuse University because of its reputation as a military-friendly school.”

**BENETTA DOUSUAH G’25**

U.S. ARMY VETERAN & STUDENT  
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## GIVE NOW

Your donation to the Veteran Legacy Fund (VLF) will change the lives of military-connected students at Syracuse University. Please consider making a gift today.



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