



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

With our second year successfully concluded, it's fair to say that we have learned a great deal. As a board, we have committed ourselves to our mission, and we know that we have a story worth telling. But in a world competing for resources with 1.8 million other nonprofits, all of whom also believe in their own messages, the job of fundraising is that much more difficult. Backed by a platinum rating from GuideStar® and a powerful message, we look forward to the challenges of 2018, and we will need your help.

Our message is simple enough: We aim to provide resources to our parent organization, the Young Marines, in order to help America's youth face the countless challenges of today's world. Childhood obesity, social bullying, and an ever-increasing drug problem all highlight the conflicts that we, as adults, must work through with our children. We must understand the issues in order to provide solutions. One solution is the Young Marines.

The program's robust physical fitness program is designed to reward the effort of our members to achieve certain levels of health through an annual fitness program. The fitness program for each new Young Marine begins immediately and continues throughout their time with the organization.

Social bullying, and bullying in general, has also become a critical area of concern. Not only does the organization have a zero-tolerance policy, but the Young Marines has the added ingredient of ensuring that the older Young Marines take care of those who are younger and more easily exposed to bullying.

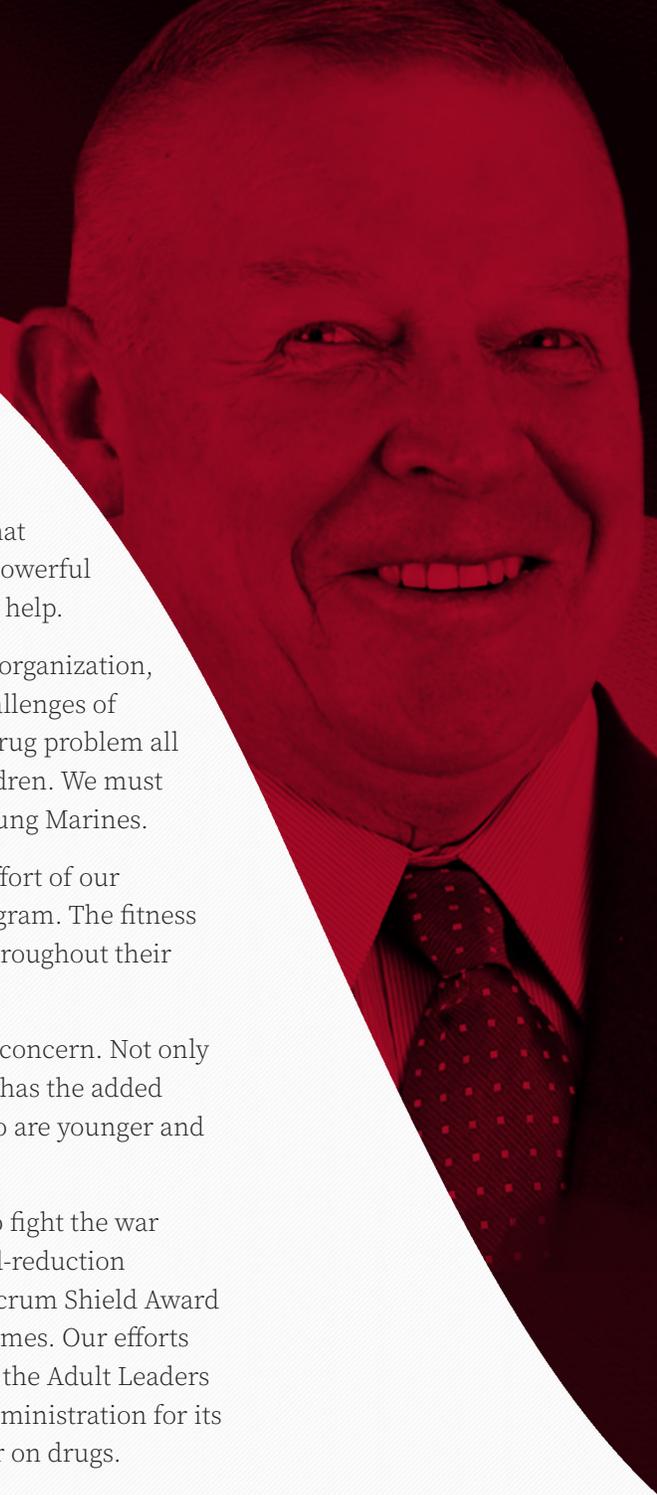
Finally, the center pole in the tent of the Young Marines is the campaign to fight the war on illegal drugs. The organization has been a leader in youth drug-demand-reduction education. In fact, the Young Marines earned the Secretary of Defense Fulcrum Shield Award for excellence in youth drug-demand-reduction education a total of nine times. Our efforts include a unique program called "Closing the Gate on Drugs." Each year at the Adult Leaders Conference, the Young Marines is recognized by the Drug Enforcement Administration for its nation-wide campaign to support Red Ribbon Week and the continued war on drugs.

Accomplishing the many tasks before us is neither easy nor inexpensive. Our goal as a foundation is to provide the necessary financial resources to continue the great work of the Young Marines. We are committed to this mission and believe strongly that nurturing today's youth is the best way to ensure a safe and productive future.

Very Respectfully,



Michael B. Kessler USMC (Ret)
Executive Director, Emeritus
Chairman, Board of Directors



YOUNG MARINES IN

The Young Marines is a nonprofit youth services and education program for boys and girls from age 8 to 18. Our program is built on structured discipline, and our ranks include approximately 10,000 Young Marines in nearly 300 units across 39 states and Okinawa, Japan. These Young Marines are guided by nearly 3,000 unpaid adult volunteers.

The center pole of our tent is teaching our members the value of leading a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Our dedication has earned nine Secretary of Defense Fulcrum Shield Awards for excellence in youth drug-demand-reduction education and has earned the Silver Pyramid Award for our “Closing the Gate on Drugs” campaign.

The Young Marines promote leadership, teamwork, and discipline in order to turn youths into responsible citizens. They learn the importance of stepping up and taking charge when nobody else will and accepting responsibility for their actions.

Finally, we remind our members of the sacrifices of America’s veterans. To that end, we continue to honor their contributions, and even earned a Telly Award for our documentary “Generations of Honor” in which we showcase how we give back to our veterans. In this documentary, we highlight our work with the Navajo Code Talkers, our annual trip to Guam and Iwo Jima with the veterans and families of those campaigns, and our annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Parade through downtown Honolulu. We are the only youth program to have lain a memorial stone at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Young Marines make a difference!



SECONDS

YOUNG MARINES NATIONAL FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

REVENUES

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$30,283.00
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	\$56,915.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$87,198.00

GAINS ON INVESTMENTS

REALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	\$53,697.00
UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	\$471,170.00
TOTAL GAINS ON INVESTMENTS	\$524,867.00

NET ASSETS

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$313,162.00
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	\$3,558,998.00
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$3,872,160.00

EXPENSES

ACCOUNTING & LEGAL FEES	\$8,740.00
BANK CHARGES	\$1,146.00
BUSINESS DIRECTOR	\$59,583.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$33,849.00
INSURANCE	\$1,600.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES & EXPENSES	\$1,067.00
POSTAGE & SHIPPING	\$429.00
PRINTING	\$9,112.00
FUNDRAISING	\$110,000.00
ADVERTISING & PROMOTION EXPENSE	\$4,234.00
WEBSITE	\$19,820.00
MEETING & TRAVEL	\$49,322.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$298,902.00

YOUNG MARINES NATIONAL FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

CASH	\$62,342.00
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OTHER ASSETS

INVESTMENTS	\$3,810,595.00
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,872,937.00
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$777.00
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NET ASSETS

UNRESTRICTED	\$3,872,160.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$3,872,937.00
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YM/SGTMAJ

ANGEL L. OROZCO

2017 NATIONAL YOUNG MARINE OF THE YEAR

I am grateful I was able to rise to the challenge of becoming the National Young Marine of the Year, 2017–2018. I would like to thank my family and all those who have had a hand in my journey. Moreover, I want to ask the entirety of our organization to join me in bidding a fond farewell to YM/SGTMAJ Joseph Bacon and thanking him for his service to the Young Marines as last year’s National Young Marine of the Year.

While I have watched many Young Marines come before me, and I know that many will follow after, I have my eyes set on the immediate future. It is my vision and dream to help make this organization the best that it can be. For me, this is not a time to relax, but instead, a time to buckle down and chase after the next goal. In pursuit of my ambitions for the Young Marines, there are a few words I want to share with every Young Marine across our nation.

Many think that a leader sits on a throne on top of the pyramid, but a leader is someone who is willing to carry more responsibility than others; someone who is willing to work harder for those they lead. A leader does not sit on top; a leader supports the bottom; a leader stays humble and hungry. I was chosen as the National Young Marine of the Year to serve you all, and I will give all that I am for my Young Marines.

If nothing else, I hope you remember that we, as Young Marines, must stay unified. We are a team. We must support one another in everything that we do and stand up for what is right, shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow Young Marines no matter what we face. Whether this is standing up against drugs in our communities or against bullying in our schools, we have to remember that we are in this together. I encourage you to push the boundaries, expand the organization, and let America see what we can do.

I challenge Young Marines to get Project Alert certified, earn a DEA device, and put a red cord on every single wrist that we cross paths with.

If there is anything you would like to share with me, I encourage you to reach out. Send me an email and let me know about ways to make this organization better. I know that together we can create change. Anne Frank described our initiative best, remarking, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Don’t wait, Young Marines—start improving the world right now!

YM/SGTMAJ Angel L. Orozco
2017 National Young Marine of the Year

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine

OFFERING SUPPORT IS CRITICAL IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

By Joseph Lusignan

Young Marines Deputy Director, West Coast Operations

The word “suicide” is enough to send many people running. Yet, even in the Young Marines program, suicide is an alarming presence that we must not steer away from.

Despite our love for our kids, some of them still consider suicide the only way out of their suffering. We cannot be ostriches with our heads in the sand if there is anything more we could be doing to prevent these unfortunate deaths. We **must** acknowledge that it happens, and we must convince our youth that this is **not** the way out of temporary problems. Whether the cause is bullying, troubled relationships, or other hardships, the answer should **never** be to take one’s own life.

In our Young Marines units, we strive to provide resources to support our kids. We have adults who care about and love our Young Marines. We have adults who will take the time to talk with our youth who are in need and struggling. We are committed to our Young Marines and committed to offering them the resources they need. We have Young Marines who treat each other as family, like brothers and sisters. **WE CARE!**

All too often, people choose the wrong path because they are lost and feeling isolated. We must make the extra effort to ensure that our kids know we love them, and hurting, harming, or even killing themselves is **not** the answer.

How do you know someone is wandering down that wrong path? There are many signs that may mean that someone is at risk for suicide, and risk is greater if the behavior is new, or has increased, and if it seems related to a painful event, loss, or change. Here are some behaviors that you can and should always take seriously:

- Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself
- Looking for ways to kill oneself
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

It is also critical to remember the importance of seeking professional help—we are not experts on this subject. If we believe one of our kids is in danger, what do we do? First off, **Take It Seriously!** Don't assume it's just talk, and give them the attention they need. If you believe someone may be thinking about suicide:

- Ask them gently if they are thinking about killing themselves. (This will not put the idea into their head or make it more likely that they will attempt suicide.)
- Listen without judging, and show you care.
- Stay with the person (or make sure the person is in a private, secure place with another caring person) until you can get further help.
- Remove any objects that could be used in a suicide attempt.
- Call SAMHSA's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), and follow their guidance.
- If the danger of self-harm seems imminent, call 911.

In the Young Marines, we foster a culture that values life and provides perspective and social support to our members, and helps them navigate the struggles of life to find a sense of hope, meaning, and purpose. Suicide is a choice that does not bring an end to a problem. It causes hurt, pain, loss, and sorrow to those who care.

Please, before even thinking about harming yourself, reach out to your Young Marines family.

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine



EAST VALLEY YOUNG MARINE: WILLING TO SIT TO TAKE A STAND

By Dawn Henry

East Valley (Arizona) Young Marines

Young Marine/Master Sergeant Tyson Henry of the East Valley (Arizona) Young Marines proudly wears the red cord on his wrist. The red cord symbolizes Tyson's anti-drug pledge, and he is more than willing to stand up for this message taught to him by the Young Marines.

Outside of the Young Marines Program, Tyson is the starting center fielder for the Mountain View Toros Junior Varsity baseball team. Recently, Tyson's red cord put him in a difficult position during a

baseball game. As Tyson entered the batter's box, an umpire asked him to remove his red cord. Tyson did so without argument. When Tyson returned to the dugout, his coach informed him that he would not be finishing out that game—and that he would also be sitting out the next game. He was benched for wearing the red cord.

Although Tyson is a dedicated Young Marine and is passionate about the Red Cord Campaign, he sat on the bench without argument and cheered his

teammates on to a win. After the game, he approached his coach to try to explain, but his coach refused the conversation. The rule was no jewelry, and the red cord was considered to be jewelry.

YM/MSGT Henry went to the locker room and retrieved a new red cord along with the Young Marines “Closing the Gate on Drugs” brochure. He returned to the coach, respectfully requesting the chance to explain what the Young Marines Program was all about and why it was so important to him.

After they spoke, Tyson’s coach asked that Tyson bring red cords for the entire team—they would all wear a red cord, and no one would remove them. Tyson did so, even giving one to the umpire at the next game.

In the days that followed, his coach assisted YM/MSGT Henry with arranging a meeting with the school Athletic Director in an effort to explain the Red Cord Campaign. They proposed that all athletes in the school participate in the campaign.

That meeting went so well that YM/MSGT Henry, his coach, and the Athletic Director are currently planning a school-wide assembly for next Fall to go beyond just the athletes and bring the entire student body on board with the campaign. YM/MSGT Henry used the confidence and skills instilled in him by the Young Marines Program to calmly assess the situation and responsibly advocate for what he knew was right. As a result, more than 4,000 students at Mountain View High School will learn about the Young Marines and the Red Cord Campaign this Fall.

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine

OUR GIFT TO FAMILIES WITH LOVED ONES BURIED AT ARLINGTON

By YM/SGT Cailin Christoforo
Manassas (Virginia)

Our project started on December 17, when bad weather prevented our unit from placing wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery with Wreaths Across America.

We promised to visit the resting place of a family friend from Naples, Italy, to take a picture of his grave and place a wreath on it for his family. We also received a request for pictures from families of Young Marines and others who could not make it to Arlington themselves. We decided to go later in the day when the roads were clear. Since we were unable to place wreaths earlier, we posted an offer on the Arlington National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America Facebook pages to take pictures of graves with wreaths for loved ones who were too far away or unable to visit Arlington themselves.

We were flooded with requests within minutes. The first grave we visited was for the father of my mom's friend, Joseph C. Hartley, 1SG, US Army, Vietnam. We fulfilled our offer: We visited the grave of the father of our Adjutant, John J. Chada, US Army/US Navy, who died in the Pentagon on 9/11. We took photos of 23 graves in seven sections. We had so many photos to take that we didn't

leave until long after the sun went down. We returned on December 23 to continue to fulfill as many requests as we could. While in Section 60, I found a stray poppy wreath that had blown away. We looked up the name on the wreath in the ANC app and discovered it belonged on grave number 10464, the final resting place of 7 marines who perished in a training accident and who were buried together.

We squared away the wind-blown wreaths and tributes, and paid our respects, saying the name of each of the marines buried there. We visited 16 sections and took pictures of 43 headstones, again leaving well after dark. In total, we visited 66 graves in 20 sections, saying the name of each veteran buried in that sacred ground. All of the pictures were posted onto our unit's Facebook page, and we messaged all of the people who had requested photos. We received many messages and comments of heartfelt thanks. This was an amazing experience from which I learned a lot.

I encourage other Young Marines units to offer to go beyond just laying wreaths on graves, and to offer to take pictures for families. In doing this, we honor and remember these heroes and their loved ones who are too far away to visit them during the holidays.



MARINE CORPS

AARON J RIPPERDA
CPL

WILLIAM T WILD IV
LCPL



M... ANDERWORK



DONALD
LEROY
MOOMAW
US 1T USAAF

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, JOE KELLWOOD, NAVAJO CODE TALKER

By YM/CPL Brian Relation
Pikes Peak (Colorado)

My great-grandfather, USMC WWII Navajo Code Talker Joe H. Kellwood, passed away at the Phoenix Veterans Hospital on Labor Day, September 5, 2016.

My mother, brother, grandmother, and I drove to Phoenix on Thursday, September 1, to visit my great-grandfather at the hospital. We did not know he would pass away three days later.

During our visit with my great-grandfather, my grandmother wore a Navajo Code Talker shirt given to her by Navajo Code Talker Peter MacDonald and his daughter, Hope MacDonald Lone Tree. My great-grandfather smiled and said he liked that shirt. Then he asked, "Am I still a Marine?"



He had never asked that question before; and without hesitation, my grandmother leaned close to him and said, “Daddy, once a marine, always a marine.” He smiled again; he had remembered what that truly meant to him. We stayed at his bedside late that night, and we received a call at 3 AM telling us he was near death. My grandmother and mother went to the hospital, but he had passed away. His legend as a Navajo Code Talker did not die with him; it will continue on for generations to come.

Through the Young Marines, I have attended two of the Navajo Code Talker events in Window Rock, Arizona, and I plan to go every year. I want to shake the hand of every Navajo Code Talker and tell them my great-grandfather says “Hello” (Yá’át’ééh). Since I attended the Navajo Code Talker event in August 2016, I am sad to say that several other Code Talkers have also passed away.

The 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Ronald L. Green, participated in the Navajo Code Talker event and gifted my grandmother (who is a Pikes Peak Young Marines Staff Member) with a Marine Corps challenge coin.

As long as we have dedicated people coordinating the Navajo Code Talkers events and the participation of the Young Marines, the true spirit of the Code Talkers will never die. The reason I am writing this article is to ask for your help in fulfilling the promise I made to my great-grandfather when I became a Young Marine: “Spread the word, not just in this generation but for generations to come.”

But before you can help me spread the word, first take time to educate yourself. For information about our USMC WWII Navajo Code Talkers, please go (and encourage others to go) to <https://navajocodetalkers.org/> website. Also, I recommend Chester Nez’s book (he is one of the original 29 and the only Navajo Code Talker who wrote a book), titled *The Life and Times of the Code Talker*. And please come to the Navajo Code Talker Event in Window Rock, Arizona, in August. I would like to shake your hand.

Please take time to shake hands with the Navajo Code Talkers and thank them (and their families) for their dedication and patriotism to our country. Also, visit with the families in the nearby booths who will be representing the Navajo Code Talkers who have passed away.

Semper Fi, great-grandfather. I will never forget you and what all the WWII USMC Navajo Code Talkers did for our country.

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine

VOLUNTEERING FOR HONOR FLIGHTS: A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

**By YM/MGYSGT Lauren Loria
Col Wesley Fox (Virginia)**

I first became involved with Honor Flights by providing the Color Guard during their ceremony at the WWII Memorial. Honor Flights is an organization that provides trips to World War II and Korean War veterans who have never seen their memorials in Washington, DC.

The veterans were appreciative of the ceremony and enthusiastically (and repeatedly) approached members of the Color Guard to talk. We were invited to the screening of the Honor Flights documentary, “Honor Flight,” which is a moving account of how the organization got started and how it has affected veterans who have attended. After that, my mother started volunteering as a guardian who attends to a veteran for the day, guiding their wheelchair and making sure they get everything they need. People under 18, like me, act as greeters for veterans disembarking and reboarding the planes. Their smiling faces radiate excitement in the morning, and in the evening, they reflect all of the joy they felt after visiting their memorial. I highly recommend volunteering in any way you can—it connects us to our history, and it helps make these veterans feel young again.

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine





FORMER NATIONAL YOUNG MARINE OF THE YEAR

DAKOTA RICHTER

HARD-CHARGING AROUND THE GLOBE

By Lynne Arnold
Commander, Northern Kentucky YM

Dakota Richter first set her sights on becoming the National Young Marine of the Year at age thirteen, when she met former-NYMOY Casey Scott at the National Leadership Academy. Later that same year, perhaps earlier than expected, she set her heart on attending the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA).

Over the next four years, Dakota worked tirelessly to achieve both amazing feats—and her efforts were rewarded. In May of 2013, she was named the National Young Marine of the Year and, seven months later, received her appointment to the USCGA. Dakota has just finished her third year at the Academy, where she studies naval architecture and marine engineering.

In her own words, “I’m still alive and breathing, and I’m becoming an appealing candidate for future graduate programs. Do I like studying boats? Questionable. What I love is the challenge of an engineering degree.”

After her second year at the Academy, former YM/SGTMAJ Richter served as Waterfront Cadre to incoming “swabs” where, “as a Kentuckian, becoming proficient in sailing was a steep learning curve—somehow, I managed to keep my own dingy afloat while rescuing sinking freshmen.” The following semester she served as Master-at-Arms, a 2/C leadership position within the company, to support Command Staff and to train 4/C cadets (freshmen).

Dakota has been an active member of the Combat Arms team all three years, where she and thirteen male teammates compete in 3-gun matches throughout New England and among fellow service academies.

But inarguably, Dakota’s greatest success at the Academy thus far has been her recent selection as Regimental Commander—the top cadet and Leader of the Corps of Cadets—for the Fall 2017 semester. In this role, she will work with a team of eight to support the Company 1/C Commanders, organize Academy-wide events, and ultimately lead her 1,000 fellow cadets toward greater unity and success.

In addition to taking leadership roles, Dakota’s years in the Young Marines are focused on other areas: her dedication to community service and her love of travel. During her time as a cadet, she has repeatedly exceeded the (six hours per semester) community service requirement, earning commendations for more than 30 hours. Within the Coast Guard, Dakota has spent time underway in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

As part of her cadet training this summer, she will spend time underway in the Bering Sea and is one of only two USCGA cadets selected to study the Holocaust in Poland, where she will spend two weeks alongside cadets and midshipmen from the other service academies.

On her own time (and at her own expense), Dakota continues her travels abroad, already having visited Germany; Ireland; Austria; the Czech Republic; the United Kingdom; and, most recently, the Normandy Coast and Paris, France.

In addition to her cadet training this summer, she will spend time in Bangkok, Thailand, because, as she put it, “Why not?”

Dakota is a passionate advocate for attending military service academies and is always willing to answer questions from prospective cadets, especially when they are members of the program that prepared her for so many successes: The Young Marines.



ANOTHER YOUNG MARINES

ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM

SGTMAJ KEVIN BENNETT

USMC (RET)

SgtMaj Kevin Bennett, USMC (Ret), recently shared his thoughts on his time in the Young Marines, crediting the organization with setting him on the path to success. Bennett, currently Director of Professional Development at the Marine Corps Association and Foundation, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1971 and retired in 2004 as the SgtMaj of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, at Quantico, Virginia.

Primarily serving in the Infantry, Bennett also served in training activities as a marine officer instructor at Hampton University, as SgtMaj of The Basic School, and as SgtMaj of Officer Candidate School.

Here he shares a short story from the earliest days of the Young Marines program:

“This organization helped shape who I would become in my short tour of duty as a marine. It was the 60s, the birth of the civil rights movement, the beginning of Vietnam, and there wasn’t a lot of hope for a young African American kid in Stamford, Connecticut.

I joined the Young Marines Program, around ’64-’65. The leaders of this program showed me a positive way of life. They taught me discipline, pride, and a sense of belonging that set me apart from other recruits when I went to boot camp a few years later.

We had our weekly meetings and drill on Friday evenings, at the Naval Reserve Training Center on Magee Avenue in Stamford. We covered all of the traditional requirements of being a marine—from POA to manual of arms, rank structure, general orders, and proper wear of the uniform. It was all taught under the watchful eyes of our own campaign cover-wearing drill instructors. Our CO was a retired USMC LtCol, Carl Battinelli, a WWII marine with time on Guadalcanal/Okinawa.

My most vivid memory of the organization was our unit field trip to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the gravesite of President Kennedy. We slept on cots in the hangars at Bolling Air Force Base and spent nights walking fire watch around the hangar, guarding H-34 Sikorskys (or so we thought).”

Col Bill Davis, Young Marines National Executive Director, writes: *“Semper Fi, SgtMaj Bennett. So glad to have you as an alum and for sharing your story with the Young Marines of today!”*

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine

**By YM/CPL Delaney Miller
Macomb County (Michigan)**

The days prior to Division 5 Junior Leadership School (JLS) in Greenville, Michigan, were hectic and scary. I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know if I could hack it. When check-in came about, I felt sick. Was I motivated enough? What if I messed up? Why was my face bright red?

The first day, we met everyone, which helped calm my nerves. Slightly. But the next day was hard. Getting up at 5 AM and finding out you slept in is the worst. I kept thinking "How can I get through this?" But I learned most of the kids were saying the same thing, so I had to throw some positivity at everyone. It was hard trying to be positive all week. Especially when we were super tired and sore from all the physical training.

We faced multiple challenges throughout the week. But as graduation approached, the week started to get easier. We knew what to expect, which was usually the unexpected. Friendships were forged in sweat and uncertainty, and everyone was getting along as if we'd known each other for years.

Graduation day was upon us. I had had the first fire watch shift, and I was exhausted. And sad. We didn't think we were going to make it without each other. These great Young Marines were there—through all my hard times and my giving up, they pushed me through it. Through the pain, the struggle, the desire to quit. I didn't think I would ever meet people like this, but I had. As the Young Marines First Sergeant rattled off our names, I couldn't help but cry a little inside. Eventually, she called mine. I was so nervous. I was afraid I was going to forget what we practiced (and classic-me, I did).

They began to hand out awards (including perfect PFT and Most Motivated). I was terrified that I wasn't going to get any award. But then it came down to Honor Graduate, and they announced, "Congrats, Young Marine Corporal Miller." I've never been so excited in my life, but as Young Marines, we have to keep our bearing and that's exactly what I did. After the ceremony, everyone congratulated each other and said our goodbyes, but one thing I forgot to say was Thank You. Without my fellow Young Marines, being Division 5 JLF Honor Graduate would never have been possible. As I was leaving, I was asked if I would do it again. I said, "Yes. That was one of the most challenging things I've had to accomplish, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine



**“ONE OF MY MOST
CHALLENGING
ACCOMPLISHMENTS”**



TOYS FOR TOTS

IN FLORIDA: AN AMAZING OUTCOME

By YM/PFC Isabel Lojano

PFC Bruce W. Carter, MOH (Florida)

I arrived in Fort Lauderdale on Saturday, December 16, 2016, for the Winterfest Boat Parade. I was so excited—the lovely lights, the energy, and the enthusiasm from the people— it all made me feel good about doing something for the community. It

strengthened our commitment as Young Marines, that awareness that we had the privilege to help others in the community and make Christmas special for the children.

The next day, the PFC Bruce W. Carter (FL) Young Marines supported the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve with their annual motorcycle Poker Run and Pig Roast event held in the Florida Keys. The event took place at Gilbert's Resort in Key Largo, and the air was buzzing with joy and excitement. It was the first time I attended this event, and it was amazing to see the outcome:

**300 GENEROUS PEOPLE
PARTICIPATING, WITH
10 MOTORCYCLES
REGISTERED, AND
A TOTAL COLLECTION OF
\$11,000.**

I was glad to participate, and help bring kids joy, and I feel proud of being a Young Marine. It has brought me awareness and has taught me to serve the community, among many other values. I'm thrilled that I was part of this activity that, together with other events organized by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, helped more than 5,000 children and collected approximately 21,000 toys. This was the marines' tenth year of participation in this event, and it was a successful campaign. I'm excited to continue to support this program and as many fundraising activities as I can as a Young Marine.

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine

I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT LEADERSHIP WAS... THEN I WENT TO ALS!

By YM/MSGT Tyson Henry

East Valley (Arizona)

Attending a National Leadership Academy (NLA) is a great privilege for any Young Marine, and when I was selected for the Advanced Leadership School (ALS), I was both excited and nervous. The expectations would be high, and I wondered if I was capable of meeting the challenge. Before going to ALS, I thought I knew what leadership was. But while ALS confirmed some of my assumptions, it also taught me so much more. I learned about myself, more than anything else. The classes, the team-building events, and even just the one-on-one conversations with other participants gave me a chance to really look at who I am. Not only as a leader, but as a person. Knowing yourself is important for a leader—if you don't know who you are, how can you expect to lead others?

I learned that leaders are not authoritative dictators, but instead, leaders walk beside their teams. Leaders know how to read their team and know when to challenge them, to help them grow. Leaders set an example, and they should be more than willing to get dirty right alongside their team when the work gets tough. Leaders are guides and mentors.

The best experience I had at ALS was having the opportunity to work with the Junior Leadership School Young Marines during week two. I watched them challenge themselves and grow throughout the week. I was happy to provide them with support when they needed it and to assist them in accomplishing new tasks and in overcoming new challenges. I've never been prouder than when watching these Junior Young Marines grow as leaders and graduate at the end of the week. It was truly the best feeling ever!

ALS may have been one of the biggest challenges I've ever faced, but I am now a better leader because of it. I'm thankful for the opportunity I had to attend ALS, and I'll take the lessons I learned and the friendships I made with me for a long time to come. I look forward to seeing the other NLA students at future Young Marines events. I left ALS with new motivation, and I am excited not only to implement the lessons and ideas we learned with my unit but also to assist other Young Marines as they become the best they can be.

Article reprinted from Esprit Magazine



YOUNG MARINES AT MILITARY YOUTH CAUCUS



YM/GYSGT Marcie Ross

On April 26, 2017, The Military Youth Caucus was held in Washington, DC. Four Young Marines were in attendance: YM/MGYSGT Dev Patel, YM/LCPL Cindy Borka, YM/LCPL Nathan Paredes, and me. Also in attendance were Sea Cadets from different units and divisions, and we were able to speak with them to learn about their programs. We also had the pleasure of talking with United States Congressmen Darrell Issa and Jack Bergman.

Two Young Marines—YM/LCPL Borka and YM/LCPL Paredes—had the privilege to participate in a joint Color Guard with the Sea Cadets, and I was honored to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo of Guam and U.S. Congressman Joe Wilson of South Carolina were guest speakers at the event. Representatives from each program presented speeches on what the programs mean to them; YM/MGYSGT Patel, YM/LCPL Borka, and I spoke on behalf of the Young Marines Program.

Overall, it was an incredible honor and a privilege to represent the Young Marines Program at The National Youth Caucus. Attending events like this allows us to spread the word about the Young Marines Program while being inspired by the stories we hear and making great memories with new friends. Every Young Marine should have this amazing opportunity to attend an event like this.

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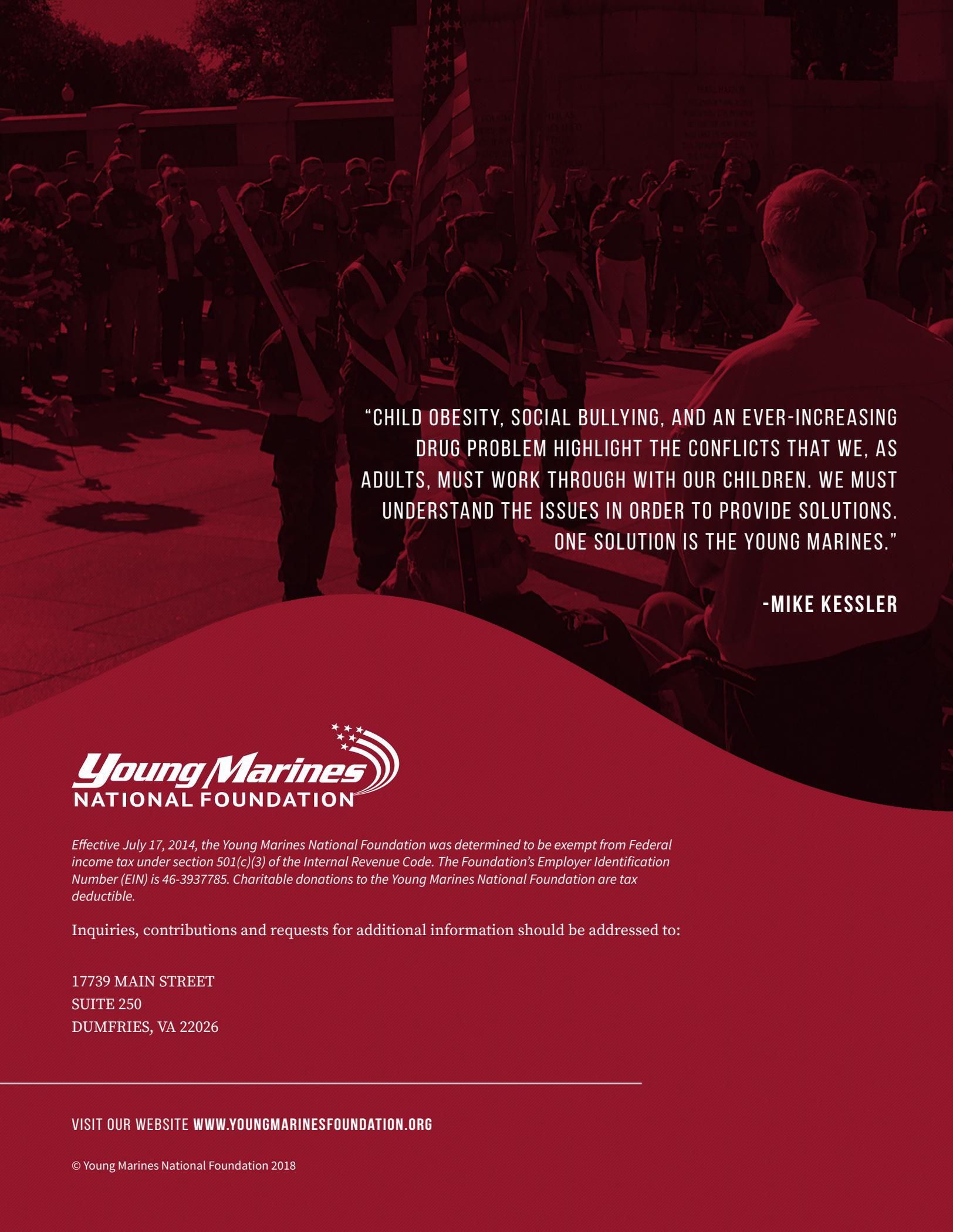
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“The mission of the Young Marines National Foundation is to financially support the mission, values and programs of the Young Marines by the solicitation, preservation and distribution of gifts, grants and matching funds from individuals, corporations and foundations committed to the development of boys and girls into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.”



YOUNG MARINE

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**“CHILD OBESITY, SOCIAL BULLYING, AND AN EVER-INCREASING
DRUG PROBLEM HIGHLIGHT THE CONFLICTS THAT WE, AS
ADULTS, MUST WORK THROUGH WITH OUR CHILDREN. WE MUST
UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS.
ONE SOLUTION IS THE YOUNG MARINES.”**

-MIKE KESSLER



Effective July 17, 2014, the Young Marines National Foundation was determined to be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation's Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 46-3937785. Charitable donations to the Young Marines National Foundation are tax deductible.

Inquiries, contributions and requests for additional information should be addressed to:

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