

ANNUAL REPORT

2018





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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The Young Marines National Foundation was established to support the parent organization and to help its young members realize their potential. Fundraising is difficult, and the competition for donor dollars is tough. Like all nonprofits, we feel that our cause is important. To that end, we have partnered with professional fundraising organizations to help us reach our goal. Backed by a platinum Guidestar rating and a powerful message, we are prepared to meet the challenges of 2019, but we will need your help.

We have enjoyed the long-standing support of GLOCK as well as the recent addition of GEICO Military and the Daniel Morgan Graduate School, who recognize our positive work with boys and girls 8 years of age through the completion of high school.

Although drug-demand reduction remains the center pole to our tent, we also offer a wide variety of programs that teach life skills to address the many challenges our kids face. We stress the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through fitness and nutrition; how to deal with cyber bullying; and how to respond to situations outside of their comfort zone. We work to instill a strong sense of self-esteem and self-confidence. To reinforce this, Young Marines are given leadership responsibilities and are expected to carry out duties within their unit.

We are proud of the leadership role the Young Marines continues to play in the war against drugs. To date, we have earned 9 Fulcrum Shield Awards from the Secretary of Defense for “excellence in youth drug-demand reduction.” One of those awards was for a unique program created by the Young Marines called “Closing the Gate on Drugs.” And, the Drug Enforcement Administration has recognized our work and continues to support us with an annual program called Red Ribbon Week.

There is truly so much more, but the point is that, to continue our good work, we must ensure our financial solvency. We have so much to do and so little time to do it—which is why we need your help: the future of the Young Marines depends on it.

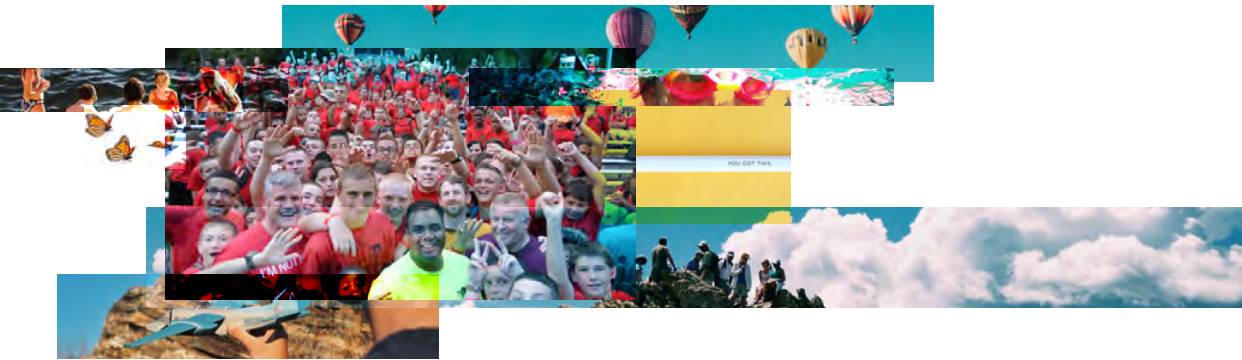
Very Respectfully,



**MICHAEL B. KESSLER**

USMC (RET) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMERITUS – CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS





# THE YOUNG MARINES IN 60 SECONDS

The Young Marines is a nonprofit youth services and education program for boys and girls 8 years of age through the completion of high school. Ours is a program built on structure and discipline involving approximately 8,500 Young Marines in more than 250 units in 38 states and Okinawa, Japan. They are supported by approximately 2,500 unpaid adult volunteers.

The Young Marines promotes leadership, teamwork, and discipline by teaching our youth what it means to be responsible citizens, to step up and take charge when nobody else will, and to accept responsibility for your actions. Our SPACES (The Summer Program of Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, and Schools) provides Young Marines with the opportunity to attend numerous leadership schools and programs around our great nation.

We remind our members of the sacrifices America's veterans have made in service to our country.

To that end, we continue to honor their contributions and have won a Telly Award for our documentary, "Generations of Honor," where we showcase what we do with and for our veterans. In this documentary, we highlight our work with the Navajo Code Talkers; make an annual trip to Guam and Iwo Jima with the veterans and families of those campaigns; and, finally, lead the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Parade through downtown Honolulu. We are the only youth program to have laid a memorial stone at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. We strive to fulfill our sacred obligations to honor our veterans who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free.



# YM/SGTMAJ KAYLA D. COLACION

2018 NATIONAL YOUNG MARINE OF THE YEAR

As we move into a new year, we should take the time to reflect on our many great accomplishments in 2018. I would like to start off by wishing all Young Marines and Adult Volunteers a Happy New Year!

There are many events we participated in during the past year, ranging from SPACES events, Veterans Day, 54th Young Marines Birthday, Red Ribbon Week, Toys for Tots support, and lastly, the 77th Pearl Harbor Remembrance anniversary.

It is important that Young Marines who participated in these events get their After Action Reports in, so that we can make these events better for years to come. Also, we like to hear how your experience was, so please write up those Esprit articles, and send them for inclusion in our magazine.

One of my favorite experiences of the year was teaching a local Leadership School in San Antonio, Texas. While attending, I met a lot of great Young Marines. You all showed enjoyment in learning and were all eager to become better leaders.

Take a look at the SPACES catalog, and find something that interests you. Starting this new year, applications are opening, and spots are filling up fast. Last summer, I had the opportunity to attend the National Flight Academy. We learned how to plan flights, along with flying missions and manning a radar station. At any SPACES I attend, I always meet new friends and make lots of memories. Young Marines who are in good standing and have up-to-date record books have a better chance of getting into the event they want. Young Marines, take the time to check your record books; and if you have any questions, do not be afraid to go to an Adult Volunteer to get help.

Also, I would like to welcome aboard the new Young Marines of the Year who hold the title of Division Young Marine of the Year. I congratulate you all for a title that only a very few will ever hold. I am excited for you and look forward to meeting each of you this March as we begin our Reunion of Honor visits to Iwo Jima and Guam. This will be my second year attending this journey that holds such a great honor and many memories.

I had the privilege of attending the first Public Affairs Course in 2017, and I look forward to going back in February for the third annual Public Affairs Course. Since our first course, there have been a lot of great additions to our public relations networks. This is also a great way for our program to see first-hand from Young Marines what events are like through Young Marines News Network, Esprit articles, and even social-media platforms. Remember to send in your experiences, to possibly be featured for others to see.

As we move into this new year, let's remember to set goals, and ask yourself what you want to get out of the Young Marines program. Take advantage of SPACES, because these are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that other people around you never get the chance to do.

Until next time, stay positive, set goals, and keep moving forward.

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM ESPRIT MAGAZINE



*“You all showed enjoyment in learning and were all eager to become better leaders.”*

*—Kayla Colacion*

**“HELP THEM BE” WAS MORE THAN A CAMPAIGN FOR US. IT WAS A CALL-TO-ARMS FOR A CAUSE THAT WAS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AND IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.**

The word “Ayni” is an Andean word based on the principles of reciprocity and balance. As an agency, we’ve always aligned ourselves with causes and organizations that mirror our principles, motivations, and ambitions. Helping each other along the way and—most importantly—serving the communities that need serving and representing those that need representing.

“Help Them Be” was more than a campaign for us. It was a call-to-arms for a cause that was of paramount importance and in need of immediate attention.

In the conception phase of this campaign, we decided to focus firmly on the future—Future leaders; change-makers; captains of industry; and, most importantly, good citizens. We believe that these qualities can be instilled, honed, and enhanced in our future leaders, through the Young Marine programs that focus

on community service, that honor the bravery and sacrifices of our nation’s greatest heroes, and encourage young people to make good choices and lead a healthy lifestyle.

It was our shared vision along with the Young Marines Foundation to help our future leaders be better and to help them be stronger. To be more driven, determined, confident, and ambitious. To help them be more.

We believe that, in getting behind a cause like this, to be a guiding light for the young marines, we’re paving the way for them to, in turn, do amazing things for our communities and country. We’re counting on it.



**HELP US  
END THE  
EPIDEMIC**



WORK BY

**AYNI BRIGADE**



**LET'S STOP  
FAILING  
TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS**



## YOUNG MARINES MOURN THE PASSING OF **R. LEE ERMEY**

“Listen Up, People...” The Young Marines mourns the passing of R. Lee Ermey, 74, who died of complications of pneumonia on Sunday, April 15, 2018. For decades, Ermey was the celebrity spokesman for the Young Marines, lending his name and his strong support to the youth program.

“We are deeply saddened by Lee Ermey’s death,” said Mike Kessler, former national executive director of the Young Marines. “We felt so fortunate that he fully supported the mission of the Young Marines. He was such a great role model for our youth members, and his presence heartened us all.”



**"WE FELT SO FORTUNATE THAT HE FULLY SUPPORTED THE MISSION OF THE YOUNG MARINES. HE WAS SUCH A GREAT ROLE MODEL FOR OUR YOUTH MEMBERS, AND HIS PRESENCE HEARTENED US ALL."**

Ermey was a frequent guest at the Young Marines' adult-leadership conferences, motivating and inspiring the adult volunteers of the program. Ermey helped raise tens of thousands of dollars to support the mission of the Young Marines as emcee of the charity auction at the annual Young Marines Golf Tournament. Also, Young Marines always enjoyed meeting Ermey at the GLOCK Sport Shooting Foundation's Annual Shoot and Gunny Challenge.

Ronald Lee Ermey was in the United States Marine Corps for 11 years. He rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant; and later, after serving 14 months in Vietnam and 2 tours in Okinawa, Japan, he was awarded the honorary rank of Gunnery Sergeant by the Marine Corps.

Medically retired in 1971, he used his G.I. Bill benefits to enroll at the University of Manila in the Philippines, where he studied drama. Francis Ford Coppola cast Ermey in a featured role in "Apocalypse Now." He went on to star or appear in approximately 60 films. Ermey's most famous role was Gunnery Sergeant Hartman in Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket," in 1987, for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe. He

won the Best Supporting Actor award for the same film from the Boston Society of Film Critics. Also, Ermey appeared in numerous character roles in such films as "Leaving Las Vegas," "Se7en," and "Dead Man Walking."

"Gunny Ermey was a true friend of the Young Marines and supported us in every way possible," said Colonel William P. Davis, USMC (Ret), national executive director of the Young Marines. "He was more than a spokesman; he cared about our youth. He always made time for the Young Marines and enjoyed being with them. He would always encourage them to be proud of themselves, stay healthy, get good grades, and be good representatives of our program. I can't say enough about his service to our country, our veterans, and the Young Marines program. We send our heartfelt condolences to Lee's family."

#### **LEE ERMEY, MEET THE YOUNG MARINES**

In 2003, Lee Ermey was the guest speaker at the Young Marines Adult Leaders Conference held in Biloxi, Mississippi. The next morning, Mike Kessler, then the national executive director of the Young Marines, asked

Ermey if he would consider being the program's celebrity spokesman. Enthusiastically, he agreed. He appeared in a few public-service announcements for the Young Marines and for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS). The next year, the Young Marines partnered with the NMCRS to create the R. Lee Ermey Celebrity Golf Experience, which included 2 rounds of golf at Renditions Golf Club in Maryland.

Ermey participated in almost every Young Marines golf outing, at both Quantico and Camp Pendleton. Also, he attended most of the Young Marines Adult Leaders Conferences. When he was unable to attend the Young Marines' 50th Anniversary event in Waterbury, Connecticut, he sent a video that was shot on a tank while he was filming a Mail Call special.

"He was always very proud of his association with us because he believed in our mission," Kessler said. "He met hundreds of Young Marines and was gracious with each one. Moreover, he appreciated our efforts to instill a keen sense of patriotism and responsibility in our youth members."

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

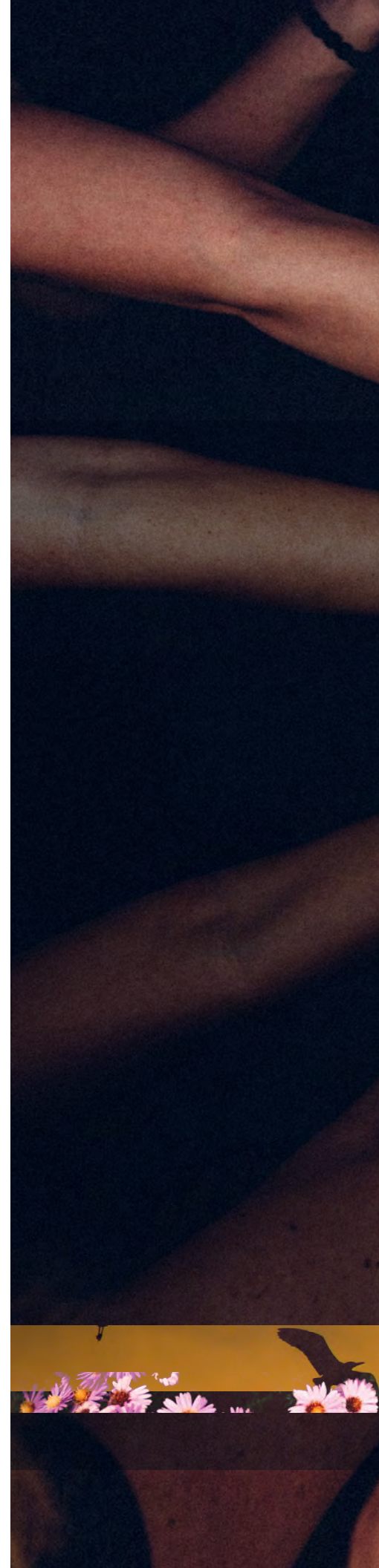
# OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our generous supporters of the Young Marines National Foundation. Every dollar helps transform our children into the leaders of tomorrow. Charitable support ensures that Young Marines can continue to build a national network of engaged and empowered youth, something we have done successfully for nearly 60 years.

The National Foundation helps the Young Marines grow our future leaders by initially focusing on character-building and leadership—developing productive citizens through a variety of local training opportunities, weekend courses, community-service requirements, and annual specialized schools and camps. None of this would be possible without the help of our supporters. With their help, we can strengthen and guide the youth we serve toward corporate and world citizenry, military service, or whatever they choose.

## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

- BROAD NATIONAL REACH WITH 280 UNITS AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ALUMNI
- 4 DMGS AWARD RECIPIENTS IN 2018
- 9 FULCRUM SHIELD AWARDS FROM DEPT. OF DEFENSE FOR EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH ANTI-DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- 250+ YOUNG MARINES PARTICIPATED IN 5+ LEADERSHIP AND ADVENTURE PROGRAMS
- MORE THAN 350 ADULT VOLUNTEERS ATTENDED ALC IN 2018
- DRIVEN BY 2,500+ VETERANS AND VOLUNTEERS
- COUNTLESS COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND 3 TRIPS FOR VETERANS APPRECIATION IN 2018
- BUILDS 9,600 CONFIDENT, SELF-AWARE KIDS AND PREPARES THEM WITH DISCIPLINE, LEADERSHIP, AND TEAMWORK!







## 2018 DONOR

# HONOR ROLL

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GEICO MILITARY,  
VANGUARD INDUSTRIES,  
AND AYNİ BRIGADE

# SUPPORTING OUR VISION

Ayni Brigade and Vanguard Industries have been generous supporters of the Young Marines over the years. In 2018, their unrestricted leadership funding and partnership strengthened the Young Marines units across the nation. “We are confident that, with the continued assistance of our corporate supporters, the National Foundation will preserve and extend the excellent work of the Young Marines for years to come,” said Mike Kessler, USMC (Ret.) and National Foundation Chairman.

In 2018, the National Foundation also welcomed GEICO Military to its group of corporate donors. The National Foundation is thrilled to welcome GEICO Military’s leadership and participation in the National Foundation. “The GEICO Military Team is proud to partner with the Young Marines National Foundation in support of the Young Marines’ programs,” said Kevin Isherwood, manager, Military Department at GEICO. “We are doubly pleased to participate in building a better American future through leading and supporting our youngest citizens.”

With GEICO Military’s help and the help of our growing community of supporters, the National Foundation is one step closer to achieving its goal of expanding the Young Marines so that every child in the United States will have the opportunities to gain the skills necessary to become great leaders and engaged, active citizens.



## DANIEL MORGAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NATIONAL SECURITY

# OUR PROUD PARTNER.

In May of 2018, the Young Marines National Foundation announced its partnership with the Daniel Morgan Graduate School of National Security. The National Foundation remains grateful to the Daniel Morgan Graduate School for its generous investment in support of our mission. We cannot overstate the impact of DMGS's grant, and we continue to feel honored and privileged to count DMGS among our leadership supporters.

"Harkening to DMGS's mission to educate and prepare future leaders, we, too, aspire to educate and prepare the nation's next generation of leaders. We are proud of and grateful for our partnership," said Mike Kessler, USMC (Ret.) and National Foundation Chairman. Daniel Morgan Graduate School's investment in our program has enabled our remarkable work in

the past year. Through our partnership, DMGS's mission to educate and prepare future leaders is also strengthened. DMGS's unrestricted annual support has provided a recruiting opportunity and pipeline of future students among our community of alumni and families.

"We are proud partner to strengthen the members of the Young Marines' drive and determination to become great leaders, and our mission is to develop them for that leadership in the national security arena," said Eric Eaton, acting president and CEO, DMGS. "The investment in their future is a solid investment into the security of our country." As the provider of graduate education and research aimed at addressing the nation's security and intelligence challenges, DMGS is fully committed to the values of integrity, commitment,

service, innovation, and professionalism in teaching and in student services. Through this ongoing partnership, we know that we have created a pathway to success for many of our alumni and families.

In recognition of DMGS's investment in our program in 2018, the National Foundation established the Young Marines' National Security Leadership Award. The first award was given to Colette S. Prosser at the Adult Leaders Conference, with more than 350 adult volunteers in attendance. Also, the National Foundation and DMGS granted an award to a Young Marine with tremendous promise and leadership potential in each of the three leadership schools—advanced, senior, and junior—within its National Leadership Academy.



**DANIEL MORGAN**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NATIONAL SECURITY

*“For someone her age to have those instincts and to recall the training she received is something that not only kids her age but also adults need to take notice of.”*

— Chris Cate

## SAN DIEGO HONORS A YOUNG MARINE’S HEROISM

SUBMITTED BY BRET A. RIGHTHOUSE  
UNIT COMMANDER, MIRAMAR (CA) YOUNG MARINES

On January 23, 2018, the City Council of the City of San Diego issued a proclamation to and for YM/MSgt Sophia M. Righthouse, declaring the date to be Sophia M. Righthouse Day in the City of San Diego.

The proclamation was presented by Councilmember Chris Cate during the city council meeting. Young Marines Division 6 Commanding Officer Wilson Lee was present, as were dignitaries from the Poway School District, Girl Scouts USA, and San Diego Police Department.

YM/MSgt Righthouse received the honor for her heroism and bravery and for her numerous accolades and achievements in the Young Marines, NJROTC, and Girl Scouts USA.

On November 4, 2017, YM/MSgt Righthouse, dressed in her Service C uniform, was en route to stand a Battalion Young Marine of the Year Board when she recognized the signs of a structure fire, took action, and personally assisted with the evacuation of a condominium complex in Rancho Pensacitos. YM/MSgt Righthouse conducted the evacuations at risk to her own life and safety in a calm, professional manner that she attributes to her training with the Young Marines.

Councilmember Chris Cate said, “I think it’s something that really is true bravery. For someone her age to have those instincts and to recall the training she received is something that not only kids her age but also adults need to take notice of.”



## A YOUNG MARINE APPLIES HER TRAINING TO A REAL-LIFE EMERGENCY

In the Young Marines, her accolades include earning Honor Graduate during Recruit Training; Junior Leadership School and Senior Leadership School; and Young Marine of the Year at the unit, battalion, and regimental levels. Also, she completed more than 600 community service hours; scored her 11th Perfect Physical Fitness Award; and founded the Valuing Our Veterans flagpole program, where she gathers funding to purchase 20-foot flagpoles for local military veterans in recognition of their service. The flagpoles are installed by Young Marines and are presented to the veterans with a Color Guard ceremony.

In Naval JROTC at Westview High School, where she is a 4.0 student, she serves the community as a cadet seaman. She earned the title of Honor Cadet in Basic Leadership Training and has been awarded a Certificate of Merit and the Meritorious Achievement Ribbon, the highest honor that is bestowed on a member of JROTC.

She is First Squad Leader and a member of the Field Meet Team, competing in physical fitness, academics, color guard, and unarmed drill. In Girl Scouts USA, she serves her community as a Senior Girl Scout and has earned the prestigious Bronze and Silver Awards.

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM ESPRIT MAGAZINE



# I BECAME A PRIVATE, AND I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I'M A YOUNG MARINE

My name is Lilly. I am 8 years old. When I'm not running or doing PT with the Young Marines, I enjoy dancing and singing. I love to ice skate, and I like to ride horses. I'm home schooled, and I'm in the fifth grade. I have my own job at my family's barbecue restaurant. I take orders, fill drinks, and run tickets. I love my job because it's fun, and I'm getting paid for it! I've been a Young Marine for 8 months now, and I've learned a lot during this time.

A recruit is not a Young Marine. It is an individual training to be one. You go through training for 26 hours. You learn marching in patterns. You are also instructed about drug abuse, and we are shown how to stay away from drugs. While I was a recruit, I had to wear a yellow shirt with a red-and-black cover. When I was wearing the recruit uniform, I felt like I was standing out. The privates and the ranks above them wore green shirts (and I really wanted to wear one, too).

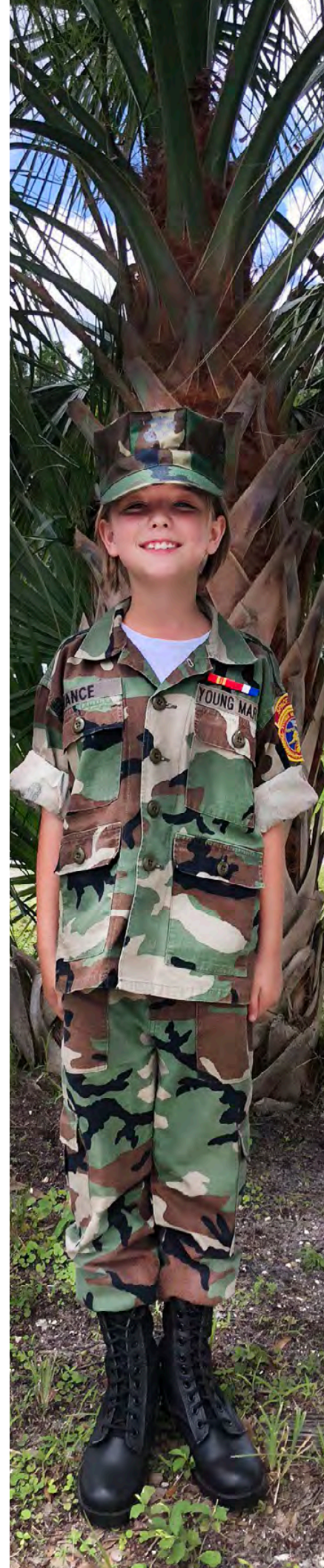
I had to pass my physical fitness test, pass all the quizzes and worksheets, and get all my checkoffs to become a private. I ran a half mile, held myself up on the pull-up bar for 10 seconds, and did stretches and exercises with my unit every drill in order to pass the PT test. My favorite worksheet was on Northings and Eastings. I had to figure out how to find something on the grid, and I passed with a score of 100%. The hardest checkoff for me to pass was the about-face checkoff. I couldn't get my feet to match up, and it took lots of practice to get it right.

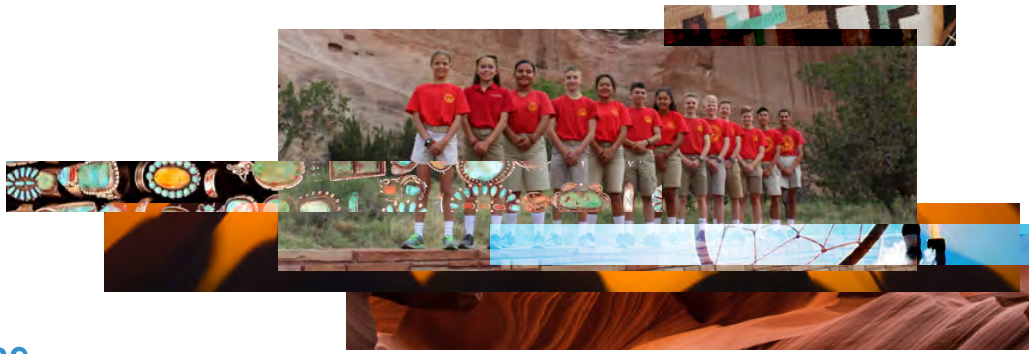
After 6 months, I became a Private, and I finally felt like a Young Marine. When I got my last checkoff, they told me, "You are a Young Marine," and I squealed because I was so happy. They had a ceremony for me, in which all the Young Marines in my unit stood at parade rest while a Young Marines lance corporal gave me my certificates; I got ribbons pinned on me; and my uniform was dressed.

I fell in, and I was dismissed with my unit for the first time as a private in the Young Marines.

I love being a private because I'm going to be in Color Guard now, and I get to be in uniform with the rest of my unit. I make a lot of friends at Young Marines. I get to be a part of the unit. Now I work at getting new checkoffs to become a private first class. There is always a next level for me to work toward, and I like that. I love the Young Marines, and I want to continue advancing in rank until I am a Young Marines Sergeant Major.

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## CODE TALKERS

# WARRIORS AND HEROES

BY YM/MSGT SOPHIA M. RIGHOUSE  
MIRAMAR (CA)

Although I have been to Navajo Code Talker Day for the last 4 years, every single time I return, I learn precious lessons that I would never be able to experience anywhere else. National trips, such as Navajo Code Talker Day, allow Young Marines to grow out of their comfort zone, meet other Young Marines from around the country, and undergo a once-in-a-lifetime trip that can never be replicated. Navajo Code Talker Day is so breathtaking that the only way to feel the impact that the Code Talkers, their families, and the Navajo people have on the Young Marines is to experience it in person.

The Navajo served as Code Talkers in World War II and played a vital part in the United States capturing several crucial islands and, in the long run, winning the war. They produced a code from their native language that no one could break! When the war ended and the Code Talkers returned home to their families, their secret language and their role in the war had to be a part of the past, because they were not allowed to share their encounters. After several decades, the Navajo Code Talkers were finally allowed to share their stories, for the

benefit of past and future generations, and they were awarded for their bravery! In my opinion, every single part of the Navajo Code Talker Day trip was a blast—from the 10-hour car ride there; to attending the event and celebrations in Window Rock, Arizona; to another 10-hour drive back to San Diego!

This year, my unit invited 12 Miramar Young Marines; 2 Temecula Valley Young Marines from California; and even one New River Young Marine from North Carolina, who is a former Miramar Young Marine. The road trip to and from Window Rock is always exciting. We stop at hotels; swim in pools; and visit interesting shops and restaurants, such as Bass Pro Shops, Cracker Barrel, and Famous Dave's. The car rides are long, but we always find fun games or music to play.

Arriving at Window Rock is one of the best feelings in the world! Seeing that huge window in the background is an awesome sight. I love attending Navajo Code Talker Day because you learn so many valuable life lessons from the Navajo and the senior Young Marines. You also meet and make so many new friends that you can keep

a connection with throughout your life! You might even be able to see them at other Young Marines events. At national, division, regimental, and even battalion events, I think the most important role that you should always try and achieve is earning a billet! Especially at national events, you should never miss an opportunity to apply for a billet. Even though a billet may sound intimidating, it allows you to attend and view the trip from a different perspective—one that shows you all of the blood, sweat, and tears that have been put into the event to make it happen. There are countless billets at different events—ranging from Young Marines Sergeant Major and 1st Sergeant; to Scribe and Special Guest Escort; to Photographers, Public Relations, and Account; and even to Hotel/Room Coordinators. There are tons of different billets that fit and match the needs of every event and every person. Apply for more than one or apply for every competitive billet. You never know what awesome experience may await you unless you try! I love attending Young Marines events!

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM ESPRIT MAGAZINE





## FINDING SPACES, AND FINDING EACH OTHER

Both William and Kayle joined the Young Marines when they were 11 years old. Each said that they had developed an interest in the military at a young age and wanted to join an organization that focused on developing leadership and personal character, determination, and a sense of pride in our country. William is from Baltimore, Maryland, and joined the Historic Elkridge Young Marines unit. Kayle, from Gainesville, Florida, joined the Milton Lewis Young Marines unit. Each of them quickly rose up the ranks of the program, participating in encampments, leadership schools, and community service projects—and earning more responsibility within their respective units.



Both Kayle and William agree that the Young Marines was instrumental in their development as responsible citizens and as stewards of good values in society. William decided to pursue his dream of serving in the military; he believes that “the Young Marines built the foundation for my personal values, beliefs, and leadership style as an officer in the U.S. Navy today.” Kayle is pursuing a career in the medical field and said that the Young Marines “instilled the discipline, dedication, and work ethic to achieve my goals, both in personal and professional life.” Both of them agreed that the Young Marines exposed them to difficult challenges at a young age and helped them to prepare for situations that others may shy away from. “Oftentimes, I was responsible for leading my peers, which I still believe is one of the hardest challenges anyone can face. The Young Marines helped me to learn how to do that at a young age—something that I’ve kept with me to this day,” William said. Kayle agreed, saying, “Working as a team to achieve a common goal is something every person can relate to, and being involved in and leading the Young Marines helped me prepare for life’s challenges early.”

In 2008, they were selected, individually, for SPACES (The Summer Program of Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, and Schools) — the Hugh O’Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference—where they

would represent the Young Marines at HOBY’s annual world seminar. This is where their story together begins. Both William and Kayle traveled to Washington, DC, in that summer, and spent a week learning about leadership; participating in community outreach; and meeting other young people from around the world. Both served on the color guard, which is where they met for the first time. From then on, William and Kayle crossed paths several times, on their own Young Marine adventures. They would go on to be chosen as their respective Division Young Marines of the Year (YMOY) and to compete for the title of National YMOY. Ultimately, Kayle was selected as the National YMOY in 2009 and served in that capacity until she retired from the program in 2010. William, still “bitter” to this day about losing to his future wife, continued to serve as his Division YMOY until he, too, retired from the program, also in 2010. Both Kayle and William had the privilege of traveling to Guam and Iwo Jima, in 2010, as part of the Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor Ceremony, which they said was one of the most memorable and treasurable experiences of their lives.

William and Kayle graduated from their respective high schools in the same year, 2010, and continued in separate directions. While William

was attending the U.S. Naval Academy, and Kayle was attending Santa Fe College, the two reconnected, and the rest is history and herstory. They began dating a short time after; became engaged in 2013; and married in the summer of 2015, at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel, in Annapolis, Maryland. After commissioning as an officer in the U.S. Navy, William was selected to train as a Naval Aviator, and he earned his “Wings of Gold” in 2018. They are currently living in Virginia Beach, Virginia, after moving four times in four years—which they agree has been quite an adventure. Kayle graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in biomedical science from Texas A&M University–Kingsville, and she plans to continue her education in the medical field. William is currently learning to fly the F/A-18 Super Hornet and said that “I will always cherish the memories I have from the Young Marines. The friendships I was lucky enough to gain, the mentors I learned from, and the values I still use today in my military career. And meeting Kayle was an awesome bonus!” Both William and Kayle agree that the Young Marines changed their lives in many ways, and they wouldn’t hesitate to do it all over again if they had the chance!

# MAINTAINING OUR FOCUS

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIKE ZELIFF

Looking back on 2018, I am encouraged by the continued support that we have enjoyed and by the introduction of new partners.

In 2018, we added the fundraising team from Graham-Pelton of Jennifer Harris and Megan Bailey. Under their leadership, we raised \$270,000 of additional support, and I am confident that their efforts will only expand.

Despite a challenging year in the market, we have enjoyed the benefits and a steady hand from our investment team from Brown Advisors, Allan House, and Shooter Star.

And we are excited by the creativity and strategy of our advertising team at Ayni Brigade, led by Mark Russell.

In 2019, we are challenging each of these business units to become revenue streams for the foundation and, ultimately, for the Young Marines.

Next year will be a year to activate our existing donors, build our corporate partners, tap into new constituencies of like-minded people, and build for the future.

While we are focusing on these goals, we never forget that we are solely dedicated to the mission of the Young Marines to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth-development programs for boys and girls—programs that nurture and develop its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

### **MICHAEL W. ZELIFF, USMC (RET)**

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
THE YOUNG MARINES NATIONAL FOUNDATION



## A HELPING HAND IN THE WAKE OF A NATURAL DISASTER

BY YM/CPL JAIDEN MCELYEA  
SWANSBORO (NC)

Hurricane Florence, a violent category-2 hurricane, hit the coast of North Carolina just south of Swansboro, where our unit is located.

We had record-breaking flooding that threatened our nearby communities, but most of the damage in our area came from strong (137 mph) winds. The destructive winds sent debris everywhere, blocking many major roads and key points of access. The winds and debris also ripped apart many homes and businesses. Hurricane Florence remained stationary in our area for 2 days; and within the week, it had covered our entire state in devastating storms. Thousands of people in our area were trapped by flood waters and downed trees, and they were without water, electricity, or even food. Sadly, many people even lost their homes.

After the storm, my family and I couldn't make it back to our home for 5 days, but when we did, we immediately got to work. On the first day back, we helped rake leaves and sticks out of our neighbors' yards, and we began to

clean debris off of several homes. Also, a tree had fallen on an elderly neighbor's house, so we cut off the tree and hauled branches and logs to the curb. But helping people didn't stop there.

One of the places that Hurricane Florence damaged was our local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall. Cleaning up the VFW was a crucial thing to do. Not only is it a meeting place for retired military in our community, but also, it's where the Swansboro Young Marines holds drill meetings. Our VFW had downed trees on the property, broken branches that littered the lot, and large amounts of fallen leaves that made the grounds unsightly. Within days of the storm ending, many of our Young Marines and staff joined up to help with cleanup. With teamwork and determination, our unit was able to get our VFW grounds looking good again, and the VFW members were grateful that Young Marines stepped in to help.

Our Young Marines also helped serve meals with our local fire department after the storm. Our fire department passed out free hot meals to people

in need. They were always in need of volunteers, and one of our staff members reached out to them and sent some of our Young Marines (including me) to help distribute meals. We returned to the fire station day after day to distribute meals to the needy. Some days, we handed out so many meals that we ran out before the next shipment of hot meals came in. Our unit's volunteer work made a big, positive impact on our community.

Community service is one thing that we all need to do regularly. An easy way to achieve this is by being active in your community by volunteering at schools, nursing homes, churches, or other organizations. We don't have to wait for a natural disaster or a desperate need for volunteers before we do our part in our community. We can start donating time now, even within our own neighborhoods. By getting out there and doing good deeds in our towns, we are showing others not only what it means to be a Young Marine but also how Young Marines actively support their community.

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM ESPRIT MAGAZINE



## REMEMBER TO THANK ADULT VOLUNTEERS

BY YM/MGYSGT MACIE ROSS  
DIVISION TWO PUBLIC AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT/  
LCPL CALEB JOHN POWERS (VA)

On Memorial Day, my unit had the opportunity to march in the National Memorial Day Parade, in Washington, DC. Young Marines units traveled from all over the East Coast to participate in the parade that honors our fallen heroes. Several adult staff members were present with their Young Marines units.

Among the registered adult volunteers was one who helped me when I was flying home from California. I had an issue when the airline checked me in wrong. They thought I had been lost. I almost missed my flight, but Ms. Hull stayed behind, risking that she and her son might miss their flight as she took care of me. Seeing her again was an incredible experience, and it reminded me of everything that members of the adult staff do for us.

Young Marines tend to take our adult volunteers for granted. They give up their time to come to drill, plan activities, have parent meetings, run recruit training, or take their units to events such as the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Week, in Hawaii. They do these things, and so much more, at their own expense. We wouldn't be the Young Marines that we are without them, because they encourage, teach, mentor, and inspire us. It doesn't matter what unit you're from or if they know you; they will always help you. These adult volunteers stay on after their children have retired because of their dedication to the program. Some Young Marines retire and return as adult volunteers to help the Young Marines program. The things we do wouldn't be possible without them. Make sure you thank our registered adults for all they do to make this program successful.

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM ESPRIT MAGAZINE





## THE FUTURE IS IN GOOD HANDS

BY YM/LCPL HUNTER A. GOMEZ  
QUARTZ HILL (CA)

Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) is very important to all Young Marines units. Not only is it important but it requires that a Young Marine complete four presentations. My DDR is specifically about gateway drugs (marijuana, tobacco, and alcohol). I'm also working on another DDR presentation covering the dangers of inhalants (abusing them is referred to as huffing). I am writing this article for a number of reasons. First, my unit commander, Chris Chinchilla, along with my parents, encouraged me to write; and, second, I wanted to give other Young Marines encouragement. I want you to know that this is a very important and positive thing we are doing, and we need to spread the word about "doing the right thing."

My gateway-drug presentation took place at my school, with 27 of my peers. I was confident because I was before a small group of people I was familiar with. Before the presentation, I was still very nervous and kept thinking about things such as not being able to answer their questions or being made fun of. Well, none of that happened!

So, at my second presentation, I arranged to speak about DDR to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Mission Division Cadets. Their ages ranged from 14 to 18 years, and there were 67 present. I was really nervous all over again. My thoughts were, "I'm only 9 years old; and all these big kids, who are police cadets, are probably wondering, 'What can he teach us?'" But I knew there was no backing out, and I had a mission to accomplish. I just went on with what I knew, and it actually became really easy after the first two minutes.

When the time came to take questions, I was able to answer the one question someone asked. I felt very proud after that. Everyone was so nice, and they thanked me for bringing the educational awareness to them. A little about myself: I'm in the 4th grade, and I have two more presentations scheduled that will be completed before my 10th birthday on March 27, 2018.

I'm autistic and have ADHD. I know that this diagnosis is a part of who I am and can complicate the way I do things, but I do them to the best of my ability—and that's all anyone can ask of you. I follow the Young Marines Obligation and Creed to its fullest and work to set an example for others to follow.

I hope that my presentations will keep kids from using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and, in turn, will inspire them to do their best. "Thank you" to my fellow Quartz Hill Young Marines for making a difference in our communities. Semper Fidelis

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM ESPRIT MAGAZINE

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

## REVENUES

Contributions	\$374,207
Interest & Dividends	\$94,964
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$469,171</b>

## GAINS ON INVESTMENTS

Realized Gain on Investments	(\$6,837)
Unrealized Gain on Investments	(\$256,747)
<b>TOTAL GAINS ON INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>(\$263,584)</b>

## NET ASSETS

Decrease in Net Assets	(\$465,447)
Net Assets, Beginning	\$3,890,604
Net Assets, Ending	\$3,425,157

## EXPENSES

Advertising	\$244,398
Amortization	6,607
Accounting & Legal	13,156
Executive Director	65,000
Professional Fees	272,547
Bank Charges	1,731
Insurance	3,698
Office Supplies	650
Printing	1,544
Promotion	12,531
Website	15,375
Meetings & Travel	33,797
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$671,034</b>

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$173,456
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### FIXED ASSETS

Net Website Development Costs	\$11,837
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### OTHER ASSETS

Investments	\$3,241,975
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,427,268</b>
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## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$2,111
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### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$3,425,157
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,427,268</b>
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The Young Marines and the Young Marines National Foundation are extremely proud to have earned a Platinum Seal for our exemplary, transparent fiduciary responsibility and the demonstrable results of our mission—the highest level of recognition GuideStar awards nonprofits.



## **YOUNG MARINES NATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Effective July 17, 2014, the Young Marines National Foundation was determined to be tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation's Employee 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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**VISIT [WWW.YOUNGMARINESFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.YOUNGMARINESFOUNDATION.ORG)**

THIS ORGANIZATION WAS AWARDED A PLATINUM RATING BY GUIDESTAR.

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