



# OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES<sup>SM</sup>

Greater Charlottesville

## EIGHTH ANNUAL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Saturday, May 3, 2025  
Lane Auditorium  
Albemarle County Office Building  
Charlottesville, Virginia



We would like to thank our host sponsor for their support to help honor the young men and women here today!

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## The OCS Mission

To recognize and honor high school enlistees and their commitment to military service and to provide parents/guardians of enlistees with community support as their son or daughter transition into military service.

Our Community Salutes (OCS) is a national, non-profit organization helping communities recognize, honor and support high school seniors who plan to enlist in the U.S. Armed Services after graduation.

OCS was founded in 2009 by educator and former U.S. Army officer, Dr. Kenneth Hartman, to provide enlistees and their parents with guidance, information, resources and community support from like-minded enlistees and parents as their son or daughter transition into military service.

Our Community Salutes includes community leaders, government officials, educators, businessmen, and veterans who feel strongly in the importance of community support and recognition of the patriotic young adults who will enlist in the military after graduation.

# OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES GREATER CHARLOTTESVILLE

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Prelude Music.....	Burnished Brass Friends of the Charlottesville Band
Welcome and Opening Remarks .....	Andrew Sides US Marine Corps Reserves; DAC Program Manager
Posting the Colors.....	University of Virginia Joint ROTC Color Guard US Army Cadet Gan, US Navy Midshipmen Cisse and Bozeman, and US Air Force Cadets Dungan, Price, Poluru, Suraphel, and McGee
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Mary Garrison American Legion Post 74 Commander
National Anthem .....	US Air Force Cadet Park
Invocation .....	Chaplain Colonel Joel Jenkins (Ret, US Army)
Proclamation.....	Mike Pruitt (former US Navy) Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
Blue Star Mother Testimonial.....	Ginger Fitzgerald Blue Star Mothers of America, Central Virginia Chapter
Delegate for Virginia's 55 <sup>th</sup> District.....	Amy Laufer
Keynote Military Speaker.....	John McGuire (former US Navy SEAL) Representative of Virginia's 5 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Enlistee Recognition Ceremony .....	Secretary Craig Crenshaw Letter Commendation from the Senate of Virginia from Senator R. Creigh Deeds OCS Challenge Coin
Oath of Enlistment .....	Lieutenant Colonel Gary W. Rainer (US Army) Deputy Commanding Officer, National Ground Intelligence Center
Armed Force Medley .....	Burnished Brass
Closing Remarks.....	Andrew Sides
Retiring of the Colors.....	University of Virginia Joint ROTC Color Guard
Departure of Honored Enlistees	

# Mike Pruitt

(former US Navy Officer)

*Albemarle County Board of Supervisors,  
Scottsville District*



Mike Pruitt grew up in a blue collar family in a rural corner of the South Carolina Blue Ridge. His career that followed involved eight moves, two combat deployments, and countless flights and sorties around the globe. He came to Albemarle shortly after ending military service looking for the one opportunity he'd never had: a place to make a home.

With the help of a military scholarship Mike was able to attend Duke University before commissioning into the US Navy. He led teams aboard two warships, deploying twice to the Middle East to defend American citizens and support operations against ISIS. He later joined the Office of Naval Intelligence, where he served as a senior analyst and advisor as the country teetered on the brink of war with Iran.

Since leaving the Navy, Mike has continued his commitment to public service. In addition to his service on the Board of Supervisors, he works as a civil rights lawyer for a Virginia-based nonprofit. His legal work focuses on housing, discrimination, and helping those who have been mistreated by corporations and landlords. He previously worked to expand workforce training opportunities and apprenticeships for veterans and rural communities through a national nonprofit and helped combat racial housing discrimination with the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Mike lives in the Scottsville District with his husband, an Episcopal minister, and his rescue dog, Jo. He worships at Trinity Episcopal Church in Charlottesville. You're likely to spot Mike jogging around the Rivanna Trail or Keene when the weather's good or picking up produce at the Ix or Scottsville Farmers Markets—don't hesitate to say hello!

# Amy Laufer

*Delegate for Virginia's 55<sup>th</sup> District*

Amy Laufer grew up as one of eight children on a dairy farm in rural Wisconsin. She is a first-generation college graduate, and supported herself through school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by working several jobs, including packing fish in Alaska, and earned a bachelor's degree in geology. After college, Amy was a water analyst for the state of Wisconsin. Eventually, she taught elementary school and worked with a local agricultural co-op in a rural town in Jamaica as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer. Amy established that community's first lending library and organic learning garden – both of which still exist today.



After the Peace Corps, Amy was inspired to pursue a career as an educator. She attended the Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City and graduated with a master's degree in secondary science education. At the end of the academic year, Amy moved to Charlottesville, following her soon-to-be husband, Aaron, whom she met in the Peace Corps. Aaron attended Charlottesville High School and the University of Virginia for undergraduate and graduate school. Amy taught math and science at Louisa County Middle School and Tandem Friends School and was appointed to the Commission of Children and Families.

Prior to being elected into the House of Delegates, Amy was honored to be elected as a member of the Charlottesville City School Board from 2011 to 2019, and to serve as the Board's Chair from 2015 to 2016. She also served as a board member for the Social Services Board of Albemarle County, the Arc of the Piedmont, and the Charlottesville National Organization for Women; was a member of the Virginia Disability Commission; and served as the Chair of the Albemarle County Democrats in 2022.

After Amy's experiences in UVA's Sorensen Institute of Political Leaders Program and Emerge Virginia's elected leadership bootcamp, she launched Virginia's List in 2014 to support Democratic women running for state office and has helped dozens of candidates get elected.

Since being sworn in to the Virginia House of Delegates in January of 2024, Delegate Laufer has proudly served the people of Virginia's 55th District as a member of the House Finance Committee, Education Committee, and the Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources. She is also honored to have been appointed as the Chair of the Disability Commission, and currently acts as a member on a number of other boards and commissions, including the House Select Committee on Rural Health Care, the State Water Commission, and the Special Task Force on Free Speech.

Amy currently lives in Albemarle County with her family-her husband Aaron and her children Hannah, Adam, and Henry.

# John McGuire

## (former US Navy SEAL)

*Representative of Virginia's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*



John McGuire was born and raised in Central Virginia. As a child, he was abandoned and spent his early childhood years in the foster care system, attending nine different elementary schools. By the grace of God, his grandparents rescued him and his older sister from the foster care system and raised them until their dad obtained sobriety. John is incredibly proud of his father John J. McGuire, Jr. who saw one son promoted to brigadier general in the Virginia National Guard, celebrated his 41st anniversary of sobriety, and saw John McGuire, III, elected to Congress in a five-day period of November 2024.

John set his sights on becoming a Navy SEAL in high school. He immediately enlisted in the United States Navy after and achieved his dream. He spent 10 years as a Navy SEAL, became a sniper, did several deployments to countries across the world defending our nation against evil, and became a sniper instructor before returning home to Virginia.

Back in his hometown in Central Virginia, John founded his small business, SEAL Team PT, Inc., a fitness organization dedicated to helping teams and individuals become stronger, healthier, and more confident. John and his team have trained individuals, companies, and sports teams around the country and overseas. His company has been part of eighteen division one championships. John has mentored nine young men who have become Navy SEALs as well as others who became Air Force PJs, Army Special forces, MARSOC, pilots, Secret Service agents, and more.

In 2018, John was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. Six years later, John was elected to the Virginia State Senate where he served on the Local Government Committee, the Privileges and Elections Committee, and the Transportation Committee. John is serving his first term in the House of Representatives representing Virginia's 5th Congressional District. In the 119th Congress, John serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

John and his wife Tracy have raised five children, and they now live in Goochland, Virginia.

# Andrew Sides

A Virginia native, United States Marine Corps Reserve officer, and community volunteer, Andrew is a passionate veteran advocate and defense industry supporter. He grew up locally and attended Piedmont Virginia Community College before transferring to Virginia Tech to complete his undergraduate degree. After working in North Carolina in various change management and information security roles, Andrew, his wife Emily, and their three sons permanently returned to the central Virginia area in 2021. His military background is in foreign security force advising and family program management.



Currently, Andrew serves as the Program Manager for the Defense Affairs Committee (DAC) in the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce. The DAC's mission is to foster economic vitality by further strengthening the alliance of relationships among the Chamber, the Chamber network, the Central Virginia community, the regional defense & intelligence community, and our veterans.

In addition to his routine Marine Corps Reserve commitments, Andrew has mobilized to active duty multiple times in order to attend Expeditionary Warfare School, attend Command and Staff College, lead security cooperation teams in the Kingdom of Jordan, and support COVID-19 operations domestically with Task Force Commitment.

Andrew volunteers as an elected board member of the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Foundation, a director of the USMC Reserve Leadership Collective, an appointed officer in Detachment 1256 of the Marine Corps League, a member at large in American Legion Post 74, and an instructor at the Trail Life program at First Baptist Church Park Street.



## UNITED STATES ARMY

### FUTURE SOLDIERS

Abdul Dost  
Zoe Grimes

James Morris  
Jeremy Aranda



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### FUTURE AIRMEN

Philip Lamb  
Nicholas Vallejo

Alejandra Gonzalez  
Exavier Goodman



## VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD

### FUTURE GUARDSMEN

Kendall Forrest  
Joshua Loving  
Philip Hollis





## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

### FUTURE MARINES

Che Lewis  
Josiah Patterson  
Ca'Miera Coles  
Bryan Cristomorosales  
Isaac Ramos  
Talya Bowles

Justin Zunigaadame  
HaileGabriel Damtew  
Alexander Harpin  
Seth Trimble  
Edwin CoaquehuaGonzales



## UNITED STATES NAVY

### FUTURE SAILORS

Matthew Lewis  
Bryan Breeden  
Edgard Torres  
Kira Gaines  
Hayden Perry  
Oscar Figueora

Christopher Connell  
Carson Mann  
Hayden Ribbentrop  
Logan Sibilsky  
Gavin Herdon

# Oath of Enlistment

The oath of enlistment into the United States Armed Forces is administered by any current or retired commissioned officer to any person enlisting or reenlisting for a term of service into any branch of the armed forces. The officer ask the person, or persons, to raise their right hand and repeat the oath.

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."



The Charlottesville Band, formerly the Charlottesville Municipal Band, is one of the oldest regularly performing town bands in the country. Founded in 1922, the 80-member volunteer ensemble performs ten to twelve full concerts and its seven small ensembles play more than thirty programs each season in Charlottesville/Albemarle and Central Virginia all FREE of charge. The band also owns and operates the Charlottesville Band Building as a meeting, rehearsal, and performance space available at reasonable rates for non-profits in the area.

[www.cvillband.org](http://www.cvillband.org)

# U.S. ARMED FORCES SERVICE SONGS'

## U.S. ARMY

First to fight for the right, and to build the nation's might, and the Army goes rolling along. Proud of all we have done, fighting 'til the battle's won, and the Army goes rolling along. Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on its way. Count off your cadence loud and strong. For where'er we go, you will always know, that the Army goes rolling along.

## U.S. MARINES

From the halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our country's battles in the air, on land and sea. First to fight for right and freedom, and to keep our honor clean. We are proud to claim the title of United States Marine.

## U.S. NAVY

Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors Aweigh! Farewell to foreign shores, we sail at break of day ay ay ay. Through our last night on shore, drink to the foam. Until we meet once more, here's wishing you a happy voyage home!

## U.S. AIR FORCE

Off we go, into the wild blue yonder, climbing high into the sun. Here they come zooming to meet our thunder. At 'em boys, give 'em the gun. Down we dive, spouting our flame from under. Off with one helluva a roar! We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey! Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force.

## U.S. SPACE FORCE

We're the mighty watchful eye, Guardians beyond the blue, the invisible front line, Warfighters brave and true. Boldly reaching into space, there's no limit to our sky. Standing guard both night and day, we're the Space Force from on high.

## U.S. COAST GUARD

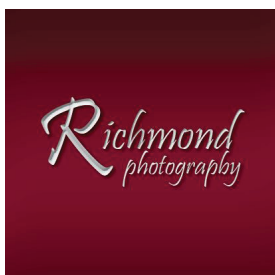
So here's the Coast Guard marching song, we sing on land or sea. Through surf and storm and howling gale, high shall our purpose be. "Semper Paratus" is our guide, our fame, our glory too. To fight to save or fight to die, Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you.

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We know what it means to serve.®



DIANA DAVIS SPENCER  
FOUNDATION

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Burnished Brass and the Charlottesville Band

Blue Star Mothers (Central Virginia Chapter)

University of Virginia ROTC Departments

American Red Cross of Central Virginia

American Legion Post 74

Albemarle County

National Ground Intelligence Center

Emily Sides

DAC Leadership Council

**Our Community Salutes of Greater Charlottesville** thanks all of the behind-the-scenes volunteers who contributed to the success of this event in a meaningful way with special recognition to Tracy Eppard of the office of Virginia Senator Creigh Deeds, Elaina Schramm of the office of Secretary Craig Crenshaw (Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs), Rita McIntosh of the National Ground Intelligence Center, Matt Hall of the office of Congressman John McGuire, and Captain Nicholas Hassell of the UVA Army ROTC program. Last but certainly not least, we thank Andrea Copeland, Ann Marie Hohenberger, Zach Hall, Sharon Engle, and Jonathan Chasen of the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce for championing this event.

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Our Community Salutes  
of Greater Charlottesville  
thanks ALL of our area's  
military recruiters for their  
tireless dedication to building  
tomorrow's armed forces and  
making today possible!

