

# 2025 THRIVING AS LEADERS AWARD RECIPIENTS



Recognizing and celebrating the achievements and service of those Association members who are **'Thriving as Leaders'** in and out of uniform' across the wide spectrum of human endeavor.

## ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE



### ROBERT K. "BOB" KUBERSKI, JR. '93

Robert "Bob" Kuberski '93 is the TAL award selectee in the AOA-A (Professional Athlete) category. A three-year varsity letter winner and two-time First Team All-East selection in football at the Naval Academy, Kuberski was drafted in the 7th round of the 1993 NFL Draft.

Despite 2.5 years away from football while serving on active duty, Kuberski made the Green Bay Packers roster in 1995 and played five years in the NFL as a defensive tackle, appearing in 49 games and contributing to two Super Bowl appearances and a championship with the Packers in Super Bowl XXXI. He closed out his career with the New England Patriots in 1999.

Off the field, he served as Green Bay's NFL Players Association representative, hosted media segments and speaking engagements on behalf of his teammates and actively supported charitable causes. Kuberski is an inductee of the Navy Sports Hall of Fame, the All-Stadium Team at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame.

Kuberski currently serves as the USNA 1993 class president.

## ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AMATEUR ATHLETE



### JOHN J. "JAKE" LAWLOR '75

John "Jake" Lawlor '75 is the TAL award selectee in the AOA-A (Amateur Athlete) category. Lawlor was a three-time All-American (two-time First Team selection) and the first four-year starter in Navy Lacrosse history.

Notably, Lawlor decided to finish his collegiate career at Navy and receive his commission despite other star athletes of that era resigning after their youngster year as the nation reckoned with the unpopular war in Vietnam.

As team captain in 1975, he led Navy to its first NCAA Championship finals, earning team MVP honors and the prestigious Schmeisser Award as the nation's top collegiate defenseman. Led by Lawlor, the 1975 Navy Lacrosse team set the standard for the program for the next 50 years. Only one other Navy Lacrosse team has reached the NCAA finals since 1975.

## JOHN J. "JAKE" LAWLOR '75 *(continued)*

Lawlor was inducted into the USNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1975, the U.S. Lacrosse (Long Island Chapter) Hall of Fame in 2006, and the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2011, only the 14th Navy player ever honored.

Lawlor was recognized for his volunteerism and dedication to youth lacrosse in the years following his graduation from the Naval Academy, and in the years since for his support of Academy graduates, veterans and first responders in their transition to business endeavors. He continues to give back to his alma mater as an Athletic and Scholarship Programs trustee and President's Circle donor.

## ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT PROFESSIONAL NON-ATHLETE



### ROBERT D. "BOB" RAVENER '81

Robert "Bob" Ravener '81 is a TAL award selectee in the Alumni Outstanding Achievement – Professional (AOA-P) category. Ravener's visionary approach to veteran hiring has led to the employment of over 150,000 veterans across major companies like Home Depot, Starbucks, and Dollar General—each earning the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Freedom Award under his leadership. Ravener's hiring model has become an industry standard, replicated nationwide and praised for its sustainability and impact.

At Dollar General, Ravener also championed internal advancement, promoting over thousands of employees to store managers and adding tens of thousands of jobs to local economies.. His efforts earned national recognition, including appointments to federal and state workforce boards and advisory committees. Ravener was also instrumental in the creation of Tennessee's "Paychecks for Patriots" program, hailed as a national best practice.

Ravener is a past USNA class of 1981 president, Athletic and Scholarship Programs trustee, Blue and Gold Officer, served for 30 years on congressional service academy selection boards, and is a President's Circle donor.



### ADRIENNE (MARKS) GRIFFEN '87

Adrienne (Marks) Griffen '87 is a TAL award selectee in the Alumni Outstanding Achievement – Professional (AOA-P) category. Griffen is the founding executive director of the Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance (MMHLA), a nonprofit dedicated to improving the mental health of mothers across the United States. Drawing from her own experience and background in public policy, Griffen has become a national leader in maternal mental health advocacy.

Her efforts have led to the passage of five federal laws and secured more than \$90 million in funding to support mothers' mental health. She was instrumental in creating the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline, which has supported tens of thousands of mothers since its launch in 2022, and helped establish federal programs to expand maternal mental health services in 13 states and within federal government.

Griffen has elevated the needs of military mothers by convening national roundtables and driving legislation to address disparities in care.

## ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

# PROFESSIONAL NON-ATHLETE



### JOSEPH K. "KEVIN" WHITE '92

Joseph "Kevin" White '92 is a TAL award selectee in the Alumni Outstanding Achievement – Professional (AOA-P) category. White is the founder of Global Vision 2020 and inventor of the USee Vision Testing Apparatus—a groundbreaking self-refraction tool designed to combat the global vision crisis affecting 2.5 billion people.

Inspired by a humanitarian mission during his military service, White pursued a vision to make eye care accessible in underserved regions. With no formal training in optometry, he conducted research, collaborated with experts, and partnered with the Wilmer Eye Institute to refine his invention, earning a U.S.

patent in 2016. His USee Vision Kit, distributed through NGOs and faith-based organizations, has provided low-cost, effective eye care to hundreds of thousands of people in 69 countries. Studies have shown even children as young as five can use the tool successfully, helping reduce school dropout rates linked to poor vision.

White has an audacious 7-7-7 goal: every 7-year-old in the world should be able to travel less than 7 miles and get a pair of life-changing glasses for less than \$7.



### JACOB R. "JAKE" HARRIMAN '98

Jacob "Jake" Harriman '98 is a TAL award selectee in the Alumni Outstanding Achievement – Professional (AOA-P) category. Harriman has dedicated his post-service life to combating extremism, ending extreme poverty, and revitalizing American democracy.

As founder of Nuru International, Harriman pioneered a locally led, holistic development model that has lifted hundreds of thousands of farmers out of poverty while curbing extremism in vulnerable regions. Nuru's integrated approach—addressing agriculture, health, education, and economic resilience—has become a global benchmark for sustainable change. After transitioning

Nuru's leadership, Harriman launched More Perfect Union (MPU), a civic organization that builds community through local chapters led by veterans and public servants. MPU fosters civic engagement via service projects, potlucks, and leadership retreats, cultivating grassroots trust and unity. Harriman also supports a political initiative to elect principled, bipartisan leaders to Congress, with six successful campaigns to date, including a U.S. Senator.

Harriman has been recognized by President Bush and President Clinton for his work. He has also been honored by the Dalai Lama as an Unsung Hero of Compassion.

# VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP & SERVICE



## ROBERT T. "TOM" SCHRAM '69

Robert "Tom" Schram '69 is a TAL award selectee in the Volunteer Leadership and Service (VLS) category. Following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Schram played a pivotal role in assisting with the rescue and resettlement of hundreds of Afghan refugees through his work with the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Group (ARRG).

Schram—a former Naval Intelligence Officer—led a complex, multi-phase campaign to secure the safety and resettlement of 18 U.S.-trained Afghan helicopter pilots and their families who were stranded in Pakistan and facing imminent danger from Taliban forces. With no funding available, he mobilized

support from fellow veterans, leveraged media outreach, and coordinated with multiple entities to raise critical resources. The effort continued until the last pilot and family member arrived safely in Texas to begin requalification training to fly helicopters in the U.S.



## KERWIN E. MILLER '75

Kerwin Miller '75 is a TAL award selectee in the Volunteer Leadership and Service (VLS) category. An accomplished attorney and advocate for both his Washington,

D.C. community and the Naval Academy, Miller has dedicated over four decades to volunteer service.

Miller has provided pro bono legal counsel to veterans, supported wounded warrior initiatives, and played a key role in the USS District of Columbia Commissioning Committee. His enduring commitment to the Naval Academy includes 29 years on D.C. Congressional Service Academy Selection Board—10

years as Chair—and 15 years as a Blue and Gold Officer. He also co-founded the RADM Lawrence C. Chambers Honor Scholarship and led numerous outreach efforts to inspire youth and promote the Naval Academy. Miller has also been recognized in the Congressional Record and was inducted into the Washington D.C. Hall of Fame for Government and Public Service in 2019.

Miller is deeply involved as a volunteer in the alumni community as a Greater Washington DC chapter member, advocate for USNA in the DC community, and organizer of the 75th annual Brigade boxing event, along with other '75 boxers, that raised funds for the USNA boxing team. He was the lead planner and master of ceremonies for the dedication of the Wesley Brown Field House in 2008.

# VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP & SERVICE



## JOHN M. SHMORHUN '77

John Shmorhun '77 is a TAL award selectee in the Volunteer Leadership and Service (VLS) category. In February 2022, as war erupted in Ukraine, Shmorhun and his wife Tuscia chose to stay and serve. Drawing on their deep ties to the country and Shmorhun's Navy background, they founded MoveUkraine.org to support internally displaced persons (IDPs) and wounded veterans in Ukraine.

Under Shmorhun's leadership, MoveUkraine has completed 20 housing projects, built four rehabilitation centers, a children's hospital, and a Resilience Center serving thousands.

The organization also provides jobs, micro-financing, and health programs, while acting as a hub for NGOs delivering critical aid. MoveUkraine's KidsKonnnectUkraine initiative links Ukrainian and U.S. students, fostering global understanding.

Trusted by local and regional leaders, Shmorhun and his team have played a vital role in rebuilding lives and communities amid ongoing conflict. Shmorhun received letters of support for this award from six Ukrainian community leaders.

Shmorhun's service in Ukraine earned donations to his cause from a growing list of USNA graduates from 1958 to 1989, including 50 of his '77 classmates.



## STEFANIE E. GOEBEL '80

Stefanie Goebel '80 is a TAL award selectee in the Volunteer Leadership and Service (VLS) category. She is the founding member of the Naval Academy Shared Interest Group (SIG) USNA Women and longtime coordinator for the Women of the Class of 1980. For over 40 years, Goebel has been a champion for USNA and other service academy alumnae along with other women veterans through advocacy, visionary leadership, and tireless effort.

Her work with AcademyWomen, Service Academy Women (SAW), and the Survivor Advocacy Network (SAN) created retreats, webinars, and mentoring programs for survivors of military sexual trauma. In 2024, she led the first in-

person Recovery and Renewal Retreat, coordinating all event logistics and securing full funding for 22 participants from all five federal service academies.

Goebel's efforts have built a team of survivors and medical professionals, expanded SAN's reach, and positively impacted midshipmen through collaboration with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) and Sexual Harassment Prevention Education (SHAPE) teams at USNA.



ALUMNI OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

# SUPERINTENDENT'S OUTSTANDING ALUMNI PERFORMANCE AWARD

## **CDR LOUIS J. GIANNOTTI '69, USN (RET.)**

Lou Giannotti '69 was selected by VADM Yvette Davids, the 65th Superintendent, for the Superintendent's Outstanding Alumni Performance (SOAP) award. A native of Bristol, Connecticut, Lou served as a Surface Warfare Officer for 21 years. Upon retirement, Lou joined Decision Systems Technologies, Inc. as Technical Director and eventually General Manager and Vice President. Following DSTI, he returned to USNA in 1992 to serve in USNA's IT Services Division. Over 32 years Lou served 12 Superintendents as the director, IT Services Division, Deputy Superintendent for IT, and Chief Information Officer (CIO). It is noteworthy that while serving as USNA's CIO, Lou also served as Acting Dean of Admissions in 2003 and as Acting Deputy for Finance in 2010-2011. For most institutions, IT means challenges and cost overruns, absolutely not the case with Lou at the helm as a member of USNA's Senior Leadership Teams since 1994.

As CIO, Lou shrewdly developed a network architecture to meet the unique requirements of a military service academy while exceeding established security requirements and providing enhanced capabilities. He did all this while lowering the cost by millions of dollars each year, saving the government in excess of one billion dollars during his tenure as CIO.

Lou remains a recognized expert across the Naval Education Enterprise and authored the seminal document that created the cooperative IT consortium to significantly reduce cost, maximize capabilities, and enhance innovation. In addition, Lou's efforts were critical to USNA's successful transition to remote learning during COVID-19 and allowed uninterrupted instruction when most colleges/universities paused to adjust.

Lou absolutely thrived during his service at CIO and his impact will be felt by current and future generations of midshipmen and officers serving in the Navy and Marine Corps.