

**Brien McMahon High School, Norwalk**  
**Navy JROTC**  
**Liaison: LtCol David Cole USAR**

**Elliot Folston**

Elliot's commitment to serving others is clear when one sees his accomplishments. He has received numerous awards from the Norwalk JROTC and other organizations, including an award from the mayor of Norwalk for saving the life of a choking student. He has been a part of the Navy JROTC throughout high school and has held positions such as Cadet Commanding Officer and Drill Team Commander. He proves his devotion to his community through his garnering of over 100 hours of service.

His work with the Connecticut Boys State as Attorney General further displays his leadership capabilities and his dedication to his country. He supports the Norwalk American Legion and has participated in the Norwalk Veteran's Day ceremony and Memorial Day parades.

Following after his grandfather, two uncles, and sister, he will join the US Marine Corps in the intelligence field with hopes to earn a commission through the enlisted commissioning program.

## **Danbury High School**

**Liaison: LT Susan Monks USNR**

### **Kevin Murphy**

Kevin's interest in the military has been evident throughout his high school career. His participation in the Air Force JROTC, marching band, and Winter Guard has shaped his career path. At 17, he received his CNA, which provides certification as a nursing assistant, and his EMT-B so that he could participate in his community emergency care. Additionally, he works as a Boy Scout troop instructor, a member since kindergarten, and as a member of the Civil Air Patrol as a Second Lieutenant Guard Commander. His work in these organizations includes teaching children about the US flag and the meaning of patriotism.

He will attend the University of Arizona to study nursing and enroll in the ROTC program in order to obtain a commission as a Navy medical corps officer. He follows in the example of a USMC grandfather, uncle in the Air Force, and cousin in the Army.

## **Darien High School**

**Liaison: LCDR Llyod Plehaty USNR**

### **Alexander Rodriguez**

Alexander maintains a balance of schoolwork and outside activities, achieving a 3.65 GPA and participating in his school's varsity swim and dive team. Alexander cites speeches given by veterans and service men and women on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day as inspiration to join his school's Support Our Soldiers Club to help spread the idea of patriotism and service to his school. He has since become president and participated in the many ceremonies the group hosts to honor United States heroes.

In addition to the service at his school, he also helped coordinate Darien's Memorial Day parade and met with veterans at the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. Outside of school he has volunteered at the Darien chapter of the American Red Cross, where he served as a registrar and assistant. He will attend Georgia Institute of Technology with interest in pursuing business administration and financial mathematics.

## **Fairfield College Preparatory School**

**Liaison: LtCol John Simonetti**

### **Jay M. Power**

Jay has worked hard at Fairfield Prep, and his resume dictates his dedication to serving his school and outer community. He is a Magna Cum Laude scholar with a 3.8 GPA, member of the National Honor Society, and Southern Connecticut Scholar-Athlete. He also competed on his school's baseball team and was captain of the swim team. Using his talent to benefit others, Jay was chairman of Fairfield Prep's Relay Teams for St. Vincent's Swim Across the Sound, raising money for the hospital. His work at the Jewish Home for the Elderly of Fairfield additionally indicates his commitment to helping and serving others, especially those who cannot help themselves.

Jay has military roots with grandfathers in both the National Guard and the Air Force, as well as an aunt in the Coast Guard. He will follow his aunt and attend the United States Coast Guard Academy, where he intends to pursue a career as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot.

## **Fairfield Ludlowe High School**

**Liaison: Lt Tom Gabrielson, USA**

### **Olivia D. Morrison**

As valedictorian of her high school, Olivia shows great academic leadership and agility in balancing her schoolwork and extracurricular activities. A National Merit scholar, Connecticut Governor's Scholar Semifinalist, and winner of several other awards, Olivia holds a plethora of titles to her name. Aside from academic achievements, Olivia participated in Mock Trial throughout her high school career and was a member of the National Honor Societies as well as several other Honor Societies.

Within her community, Olivia works with KEYS (Kids Empowered by Your Support) as a volunteer violin and piano teacher. She also participates in Girl Scouts, is a Theater Camp Counselor, and took part in her Keystone Club.

She will attend Dartmouth College with interest in government and law.

## **Fairfield Warde High School**

**Liaison: Lt Tom Gabrielson, USA**

### **Ervis A. Vukaj**

Ervis has made great strides in not only becoming fluent in English since moving to America six years ago, but also excelling as an AP student and maintaining a 3.9 GPA. His political interest is obvious when observing his membership in the Junior Statesman of America, of which he is president, and his volunteer work in the US House of Representatives, Coordinating Volunteer of the Connecticut GOP, among other organizations. The Junior Statesman of America club is the only student-run politically oriented club at Warde, enabling Ervis to participate more fully in his political aspirations. His political endeavors are supplemented by his other activities, including co-founding of Warde's debate club, and membership on the math team.

His work with the American Legion, the House of Representatives, and his other endeavors have led him to receive several awards including the Presidential Award for Community Service, the Connecticut Board of Education Student Leadership Award, among others. He aims to continue his service to others at the University of Rochester, where he plans to major in Financial and Political Economics and receive a certificate in Legal Studies.

## **Notre Dame Catholic HighSchool, Fairfield**

**Liaison: CAPT Mary Kline USN**

### **Nnamdi C. Gogoh**

Nnamdi says about himself, "I may be a product of the melting pot theory, but I believe I am a living example of what it means to be an American in many ways." His perseverance in his academic career as well as his involvement within Notre Dame are evident in his resume, with many extracurriculars and a 3.6 GPA. He volunteers regularly at the Cardinal Shehan Center as a coach and referee, and at the Merton House, along with his service work through Notre Dame. While balancing school and community service, he also was co-captain of his basketball team as well as an employee at Payless Shoesource.

His efforts to show others his patriotism while at home and abroad demonstrate his leadership abilities. He plans to attend Western New England University and major in Industrial Engineering.

## **Greenwich High School**

**Liaison: COL Serge Gabriel, USAR**

### **Elizabeth Robben**

Elizabeth's leadership shines in her extracurricular activities, particularly in her sports teams. As a member of the girls' field hockey and lacrosse teams all four years, three of which at varsity level, she demonstrates commitment to her interests. She uses her talent to benefit the community by teaching children how to play the sports as well. In school, she maintained honor roll and is a peer tutor for the national Stand By Me program.

Along with coaching youth lacrosse and field hockey teams, she gives back by participating in the Junior Breast Cancer Alliance, United Junior Way, and works at soup kitchens among other service projects.

Coming from a military-gearred family, Elizabeth will join her grandfathers, father, and brother through a four-year ROTC scholarship at Providence College.



## **Masuk High School, Monroe**

**Liaison: CAPT Dori Freer, USN**

### **Paul Young**

Paul has excelled in his high school career, maintaining a 4.2 GPA and tenth in class rank. His involvement in National Honor Societies and maintaining high honors throughout high school further demonstrates his academic success. Additionally, Paul played in the concert band, jazz ensemble, and other musical groups at Masuk. His work outside of school is equally impressive; he takes part in several military-related organizations such as the Civil Air Patrol, and is a CTTeen Leader at Huntington Chapel and Beacon Hill Evangelical Free Church in Shelton and Monroe respectively. He said of his work with the Civil Air Patrol, “[It] has taught me the basic fundamentals of leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and honor to your squadron, your family, and your nation.”

His military background greatly influenced his choice to serve himself, as both his grandfathers served in WWII: one in the army and the other in the navy. His father also served as a naval officer in Vietnam. He says their example has, “given me the motivation to pursue excellence in everything I do in my life.” He plans to continue his education at the University of Connecticut and join the Air Force ROTC Program, with ambitions to study Science and Engineering to eventually become a pilot in the Air Force.

## **Newtown High School**

**Liaison: LT Ted Lovely USAF**

### **Matthew R. Carroll**

Matthew's dreams to become a member of the military began at an early age, leading him to enlist in the Marine Corps. As a student at Newtown High School, Matthew joined the wrestling team and the chess team, improving his physical and mental fitness. He was involved in the school's culinary work as a worker at Newtown High's snack shack during sports games as well as catering sports banquets and parties.

Matthew is the first in his family to become a Marine, but he is not the first member of the military. His grandfather served in the army during WWII, his uncles served in the National Guard, and his cousin is currently enlisted in the navy. His motivation to become part of the military guided his decision to enter the wrestling team and keep his grades up throughout high school to ensure that he could enlist. He leaves for basic training on August 20<sup>th</sup> to finally pursue his ambitions.

## **Norwalk High School Air Force JROTC**

**Liaison: CDR James Botten, USNR**

### **Justin T. Poruban**

Justin shows a successful balance of academics and extracurriculars with his well-rounded resume. With a GPA of .367 and one of the top 25 in his graduating class, he managed to balance his grades with his many other activities. He was a member of the Golf Team and Indoor Track team as a Shot Put competitor. Additionally he took part in the Air Force JROTC Drill Team, the Spring Musical, and the National Honor Society. He has won several awards for his endeavors, including Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Leader Award and NHS Air Force JROTC Outstanding Cadet Award.

Within the JROTC he acted as Corps Vice Commander for his sophomore and junior year, with a promotion to Corps Commander this year. Along with these commitments he has participated in several events and organizations to benefit his military life in his community, including the Adopt-a-Platoon Donations Drive and City of Norwalk Veterans Day Service.

He will follow his father's lead and hopes to join the Connecticut Air National Guard after attending the University of Connecticut, majoring in Theatrical Lighting and Design.

## **Ridgefield High School**

**Liaison: Lt Donald Boyle, USA**

### **Kevin Ford**

Kevin's grandfather, a Navy veteran of the Korean War, instilled much of his patriotism in his grandson. His love for his country shows in his desire to succeed and represent himself as a true American. His extensive resume boasts many extracurricular and service activities, as well as displaying his academic success with a GPA of 3.95. He has won several awards for his achievements, including excellence in AP US History, AP Scholar with Honor, and National Merit Scholar.

Along with his scholarship, Kevin was captain of his cross-country team and president of the Model United Nations Club for his senior year. One of his more notable achievements is his founding of the charity Hiking for Humanity, which raises money to build libraries in developing nations. The Appalachia Service Project, building homes in impoverished areas of Appalachia, offers him another outlet to act as a peer leader. Kevin will attend Northwestern University with interest in History and International Studies.

## **Shelton High School**

**Liaison: LtCol John Simonetti, USAF**

### **Michael T. Rak**

Michael has shown proficiency in both his academic and extracurricular endeavors. He has maintained a 92 average while at Shelton High School while playing lacrosse and attending classes at the Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture School, which focuses on marine life in Long Island Sound. Additionally, he took part in the FIRST Robotics team as a member of the animation team, which qualified in a national competition.

Outside of school, Michael was a Boy Scout and Venture Scout, and a member of the Civil Air Patrol in the Stratford Eagles squadron. Michael will attend boot camp in the USMC and hopes to attend college classes while serving as a Marine. He says, "By serving my country as a Marine, I am provided the experience and gift of giving back. I hope to continue the life and preservation of these values to ensure future generations take pride in the United States the way I do."

## **St. Joseph High School, Trumbull**

**Liaison: LT Susan Monks, USNR**

### **Matthew Gaynor**

Matthew's desire to inform others about voting and getting involved in the democratic process has urged him to take action in his community. He has participated in the Student Council, *SJ Today*, the school news network, and has worked as baseball team manager. Within St. Joe's, he brought the registrar of voters to the school to sign up 102 students to vote as well as organizing a trip to the State Capitol so students could interact with legislators. Additionally, Matthew is the chairman of the Young Republicans of Milford and the Youth Coordinator, Opposition Researcher, and community outreach for the "Bob Joy for Mayor" campaign. Along with these efforts, he was elected a member of the Milford Republican Town Committee and a delegate to the Republican State Convention.

Both of Matthew's grandfathers served in the Navy, and his cousin serves in the army. Matthew will continue the family tradition of serving others by educating others on voting and government when he attends Central Connecticut State University in the Fall.

## **Stamford High School**

**Lt Donald Boyle, USA**

**Javier E. Ruano**

Javier's passion for science has fueled his interest to succeed and get involved in his school and community. Finding his niche in science classes encouraged him to become a part of other extracurricular activities and broaden his horizons. In his resume, he quotes Johann Gottfried Von Herder, who states, "Without inspiration the best powers of the mind remain dormant. There is a fuel in us which needs to be ignited with sparks." Javier feels this defines his journey from unsure high school freshman to his current state as an avid participant in his community.

His membership in BuildOn, Javier works on community service projects in soup kitchens, food drives, and other fundraisers. Along with helping others, he plays tennis on the Staples varsity tennis team. He will be the first in his family to attend college, enrolling in the University of Connecticut in the Fall, pursuing a major in Molecular and Cell Biology.

## **Staples High School, Westport**

**Liaison: CPT Al Belcher, USA**

### **Peter H. Bonenfant**

Active in his school's sports and musical programs, Peter balances many activities while maintaining his grades. On the field, Peter was captain of his football team, while he also participated in his school symphonic orchestra as senior co-principal bassist. For his efforts, he received the Col. John J. Bulger Scholarship Award from the Grid Iron Club.

His seven-year commitment to St. Luke's Church Youth Group shows his desire to serve his community, along with the three mission trips and many other service projects he took part in with his peers. His membership in clubs such as Safe Rides, dedicated to ensuring safety on the road, and in Sons of the American Legion are just some of the points on his resume.

Peter's family holds several military ties, as his father served in the Coast Guard and his uncles in the Marines including during Vietnam. He will attend Catholic University on a three-year ROTC Scholarship.



## **Stratford High School**

**Liaison: LT Susan Monks, USNR**

### **Timothy Goetz**

Timothy, born at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital, has lived with the military as part of his life since birth. Citing eight family members in various branches of the armed forces, Timothy has grown up with a strong patriotism and devotion to serving others. Tim is the first Stratford High School student to receive the Young American Award.

At Stratford High School, Timothy played the trumpet, participated in the Boy Scouts, and in his church youth group. He is working toward achieving the status of Eagle Scout and is a Senior Patrol leader of Troop 71.

Timothy made his oath of enlistment in the Marine Corps (DEP) for active duty on October 5, 2012. He will ship out to Paris Island, SC on September 4<sup>th</sup> for basic training.

## **Trinity Catholic High School**

**Liaison: CAPT Drew Bisset, USN**

### **Sean Nulty**

Sean has kept a busy agenda in his community while achieving academic excellence, ranking fourth in his class. A National Honor Society member and recipient of the Regis College Award for Leadership, Sean participates in the Boy Scouts of America, the Eagle Scouts, and the Venture Crew among other organizations. His work in his community also made an impact, such as with his help with St. Luke's LifeWorks efforts benefitting the Stamford Historical Society. Additionally, Sean served as Assistant Librarian of the National Honor Society, Senior Patrol Leader of his Boy Scout Troop 9, and Vice President of Crew. As leader of troop he led several service projects include donating soccer balls and supplies to soldiers in Afghanistan,

Sean's grandfathers, two uncles, and a cousin all belong in the military, fueling his interest in government and politics. He plans to attend George Washington University and major in economics, with a minor in history.

## **Trumbull High School**

**Liaison: CDR James Botten, USNR**

### **Meredith M. Ramsey**

Meredith boasts an impressive resume of service and dedication to her community. At Trumbull High School, she maintained a 4.3 GPA and participated in the National Honor Society and Student Council. Her passion for history and the study of the United States Constitution developed further during her work with the We the People program, which hosts competitions on students' knowledge of the Constitution. Her group won best in the Northeast for their endeavors. Her love of history also led her to volunteer at the Trumbull Historical Society and take part in the exhibits, such as one honoring Civil War soldiers from Trumbull and the greater Connecticut area.

Meredith is a gifted violinist and has won awards for her talent in her sophomore and junior years of high school. Aside from teaching and playing the violin, she is the leader of her school's Interact Club, which strives to perform community service, and has benefitted such causes as the Yale Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Her devotion to serving others is clear in her actions and desire to serve her country. She follows her father and grandfather, who served in the air force and infantry respectively. She plans to attend the University of Connecticut and pursue a career in either teaching or law.

## **Westhill High School, Stamford**

**Army JROTC**

**Liaison: COL Todd Knoebel**

### **Christina Sanon**

From the time that we enter kindergarten to the time we graduate from high school, there is one question that people never fail to ask: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" For as long as Christina can remember, her answer to this question has always been the same; "When I grow up, I want to be a Civil Engineer."

As a result, she has always worked hard to achieve her goals. In school, she ranks 17 out of 519, placing her in the top 5% of my graduating class. She is a member of both the National Honor Society as well as the French Language National Honor Society. She was the recipient of the JROTC Superior Cadet medal her freshman year of high school. As a Senior, she served as a JROTC unit Battalion Commander and JLAB captain. Outside of JROTC, she was a math tutor for her school's success program. She is a proud member of the JSA organization (Junior State of America) and a junior volunteer at the Stamford Hospital and Tully Health Center. In the fall, she will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a Civil Engineering major.

## **Westhill High School, Stamford**

**Liaison: COL Todd Knoebel**

### **Skyler B. Ross**

Class valedictorian, volunteer, and thespian are a few titles to describe Skyler Ross. His impressive academic and extracurricular record show his dedication to his studies as well as his community. Editor-in-chief of his school paper *The Westword*, captain of the debate team, member of the National Honor Society, Drama Club, and Spanish National Honor Society to name a few, Skyler keeps busy with his commitments. He has won several awards for his efforts, such as the 2011 Connecticut Newspaper Association's High School Journalism Award for Best Editorial.

Through Westhill, Skyler belongs to Interact, the school's community service club. Outside of school, he volunteers at the Friendship Circle, an organization devoted to befriending children with special needs as well.

Both of his grandfathers were a part of the army during the Korean War, and he will follow their patriotism as a student at Georgetown University as a Government major.

## **Wilton High School**

**Liaison: CAPT William Glass, USNR**

### **Jeffrey D. Tamuchi**

JD's dedication to excellence shows in his resume, boasting academic strength and extracurriculars. He maintained a 3.75 GPA while competing on the Varsity Cross-Country, Indoor, and Outdoor Track teams and participating in six theater productions. His early interest and involvement in the Wilton choir led him to stage manager. He has received membership into the National Honor Society and Wilton's The Ultimate Warrior Award for his efforts.

As president of the Our Lady of Fatima Youth Group and member for seven years, he has led and taken part in numerous volunteer efforts, including two mission trips and Mackenzie TREC run.

JD cites his cousin, a Warrant Officer in the Special Forces ODA as inspiration to join the military, and he will pursue this aspiration at the University of Connecticut as a participant of the Air Force ROTC to hopefully become a Combat Rescue Officer.