

# NORWICH RECORD

THE MAGAZINE OF NORWICH UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2024



NORWICH<sup>TM</sup>  
UNIVERSITY







C/CPT Ximena Bernhardt '24 (left), Maggie Thornton '22 (center), and C/ILT Nyles Wiggins '24 (right) recover the colors at the end of the day.



# Contents

## FEATURES

P. 1 Letter from the President

P. 3 News from the Hill

P. 13 A Friend Forever



P. 19 Bonds of Gold: A Norwich Legacy

P. 27 The General



P. 29 Rejuvenation

P. 37 Class Notes



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## THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW

### A note from Dr. Karen Gaines and Alan DeForest



As many in the Norwich community are aware, Norwich is moving through a period of transition. While change can sometimes be uncomfortable, Norwich University is well prepared to navigate any challenge. We have a strong leadership team as well as

excellent faculty and staff, and all are singularly focused on the success of our students and ensuring Norwich stays a vibrant institution. We are also grateful for the continued support of our alumni who provide such important opportunities for our students and institution. Together, we are building an exciting future for Norwich University.

In this issue of the Record, you will find that we are shaping that future while still being rooted in Alden Partridge's founding principles and vision. Few have left a mark on Norwich and the nation as distinct as that left by retired Army General Gordon R. Sullivan '59, the 32nd Army chief of staff and former President and CEO of the Association of the U.S. Army who passed away on January 2. As we reflect on his life, we remember his spirit of service which, in part, was ignited at Norwich, leading him to a career personifying Partridge's vision of the model citizen-soldier. Whether in combat, presidential briefings, or in a boardroom, Sullivan's leadership was infallible as he worked to better the lives of others. We, at Norwich, are lucky to have been his chosen home. The Norwich family gathered on the Upper Parade Ground alongside his wife, Lori, on January 17 to honor his life and legacy through the sounding of Echo Taps. Though we continue to grieve his loss, every student has a piece of his and Partridge's legacy the day they graduate.

We look forward to welcoming other distinguished alumni to campus this semester. General Bussiere, '85, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command and Commander, Air Forces Strategic - Air, U.S. Strategic Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, will be our commissioning speaker at graduation. Likewise, trustee COL Francisco Leja, USA (Ret.) M'06 will be our graduate hooding ceremony speaker. We are blessed to have such a rich legacy.

The Norwich community is excited to host General John Broadmeadow, '83, candidate to serve as our next president, in late February. Broadmeadow has more than 40 years of progressive leadership experience in a variety of positions. While in the Marine Corps, he executed several notable expeditionary operations. He led the logistics planning and execution for the Marines' initial amphibious assault into Afghanistan in 2001 immediately following the attacks of 9/11. He then served multiple tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, including as the lead advisor to the 7th Iraqi Infantry Division in 2009 and culminating with leading the drawdown and retrograde of equipment from Helmand Province in 2013. He's also experienced with humanitarian operations, having led forces in both Somalia for Operation Restore Hope and in Japan following the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear plant damage that devastated the coast north of Tokyo. As a General Officer, he commanded a Marine Expeditionary Brigade and both the Marine Corps Logistics Command and Marine Corps Installations Command, each having multi-billion-dollar portfolios. After retirement, he began sharing his leadership expertise by consulting in the private sector and with various government organizations. He and his wife, Karen, '83, have remained active with their alma mater in various alumni clubs, reunion committees, and freshmen



sendoffs. They are also longtime members of the Partridge Society. He has returned to speak on campus numerous times, including as the Joint Services' Commissioning Official in 2018 and as the keynote speaker for Norwich's Bicentennial Gala aboard the USS Intrepid in

New York City. Broadmeadow is the highest-ranking Marine Officer to have graduated from Norwich and is honored to have received the Distinguished Alumni Award and have his name engraved on the Bicentennial Stairs. He has served on the Norwich University Board of Trustees since February 2022.

As these alumni of great distinction illustrate, the Norwich University tradition of shaping great leaders has continued and we are now imagining ways of interpreting Partridge's mission for our present time, and the decades ahead. Part of this process has included launching a new logo that resonates with incoming students and articulates our institution's distinctiveness. Simultaneously, we have launched a campaign to better tell our story, anchored in the idea "Go Beyond." The focus is to showcase our ability to challenge, inspire, and push our students while supporting them to exceed their perceived boundaries and limitations.

Norwich's standards of service, selflessness, resiliency, grit, and citizenship continue to make us distinct. You will read in the coming pages about two outstanding examples of an alum and student living these values: Dryden Phelps '19, a captain in the United States Marine Corps and executive officer of the Marine Corps Security Forces at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Amrutaa Vibho '26, an example of the kind

of academically excellent students drawn to the challenge of a Norwich education.

Our alumni and students motivate us every day to match their pursuit of excellence. As an institution, we continuously reflect on ways to improve and to remain at the forefront of education. In past editions, we introduced our new Leadership Academies and leadership curriculum, initiatives integral to our efforts to establish ourselves as the national leadership university. In this issue, you will read about a new master's degree program in public health led by Dr. Page Spiess, who recently assumed the duties of the program's academic director. This program embodies the Norwich values of service to others, and in that spirit, we are inviting active military, veterans, and first responders to join our program with reduced tuition in recognition of their invaluable service to their communities and the nation.

For more than 200 years we have kept alive Capt. Partridge's bold vision that Norwich must be a different kind of institution—one that is dedicated to honor, integrity, and the creation of "useful citizens." Together, we will continue to create leaders who honor Partridge's vision and guarantee Norwich continues to thrive in his image.

*Norwich Forever!*





Artist Jim Laurier (left) and Fred Morsheimer '70 stand alongside the newly unveiled painting *Answering the Call* in the Sullivan Museum and History Center.

## Capt. James Burt '39 immortalized in new painting

Norwich University's Sullivan Museum and History Center is now the home to a painting entitled *Answering the Call*, depicting Medal of Honor recipient Capt. James Burt '39. The painting is the third in a project honoring Norwich Medal of Honor recipients through a series of paintings and was commissioned by Fred Morsheimer '70 and painted by Jim Laurier.

The project began a number of years ago when Morsheimer was inspired by a piece in *The Norwich Record*. "I read in *The Record* about a Norwich man who was the last person to ride into

the Alamo, and I just couldn't get the picture of that out of my mind," he said. He felt so strongly about the images in his mind that he wrote a note to President Emeritus Richard Schneider suggesting something like a painting to commemorate the Norwich-forged greatness.

Eventually, that idea turned into the first painting in the series, entitled *Clubs are Trumps*, by artist Dale Gallon. This was followed by a second painting of Gallon's, entitled *For Distinguished Gallantry*. Both of these paintings depicted Norwich heroics on Civil War battlefields.

*Answering the Call* is the newest addition to the series and is painted by artist Jim Laurier, who is one of the most

recognizable military artists in the world. His paintings and illustrations have been contracted by clients such as multiple branches of the U.S. military and the Department of Defense, as well as non-military media entities such as Marvel Comics and Columbia Pictures.

Morsheimer worked with a digital gallery to find the right artist for this painting. Together, they searched through a heap of qualified artists, but eventually, Laurier was chosen. Submitted work samples from artists were reviewed by Morsheimer, though he was not given any personal information about the artists, just their previous work. Submissions came from all over the world, including Europe, South Africa, and beyond.

"I went through in great detail all of the work samples that were submitted digitally and selected Jim, not knowing his name, not knowing where he is from, or anything about him," said Morsheimer. "Only then did I find out that I had selected Jim who is from New Hampshire."

*Answering the Call* features Norwich University class of 1939 and Medal of Honor recipient Capt. James Burt commanding Company B, 66th Armored Regiment on the western outskirts of Würselen, Germany on Oct. 13, 1944. There, he led a coordinated infantry-tank attack to isolate the large German garrison which was defending the city of Aachen. During the first day, Burt dismounted from his tank, some couple hundred yards to the rear, and moved forward on foot beyond the infantry positions where he motioned his tanks in strong positions. As depicted in the painting, he climbed aboard his tank and directed his men from the rear deck where he was exposed to hostile volleys which would eventually wound him in the face and neck. Unshaken, he maintained his post despite point-blank self-propelled gunfire until friendly artillery knocked out enemy weapons.

The fight would continue raging on for days. During the enemy's counterattack the following day, he left his cover and moved 75 yards through heavy fire to assist an infantry battalion commander who was severely wounded. On Oct. 15, he took his tank 300 yards into

the enemy territory, dismounting and remaining for an hour to provide accurate data to friendly gunners. Twice more that day he crossed into enemy territory under deadly fire. Burt held the combined forces together throughout the remaining eight days of fighting in rainy, miserable weather while being constantly shelled. He dominated and controlled the situation through sheer force and determination, and the victory closed the Aachen Gap.

"From the spent shell casings to the ricochet of bullets, the viewer immediately sees the battle," said Laurier of his work. "Soldiers on both sides seek cover and a better vantage point for continuing the assault, and Burt, fully open to attack on the top of the tank, directs movements of the troops under his command and calls in position coordinates to the tank crew." The scene is smoky, chaotic, and powerful, and to the left of Burt, a historically accurate "No Parking" sign is hardly noticeable through the haze. "After all, this is a city," said Laurier. "People lived here, but it turned into a war zone as the push into Germany began in earnest."

Further examining the environment, a small symbol of hope is above Burt as the clouds break with blue sky just beyond. "This battle played out in the fog and rain for weeks, but I felt that this small detail, rightfully so, provides the audience with a sense of peace and calm, foreshadowing the battles yet to come and the ultimate victory by Allied troops," said Laurier. "His hand also points toward this view of hope and

peace, as if telling his men that pushing forward would end the war."

Director of the Sullivan Museum and History Center John Hart said that Burt is the epitome of Partridge's vision of a citizen-soldier. "You're training men and women to lead a civilian life, but when called to action, can step up and take up the mantle," he said. "He was known as a humble man, but in World War II, he did what he needed to do to come out with the victory. As soon as the war ended, he quietly retired and went back to civilian life where he spent his days teaching."

When reflecting upon the painting, Morsheimer sees Norwich in Burt. "He was prepared, and all the values that he represented enabled him to achieve this tremendous success," he said. "It was an accident that he found himself in that position, but it wasn't an accident that he was prepared to take advantage of the situation and overcome all the obstacles that were presented to him."

Signed prints of *Answering the Call* are available for purchase at \$500 per print. These are limited to 25 prints and the sales will fund the commissioning of the next painting in the series, which will depict the scene for which Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Edward C. Byers '16 was awarded the Medal of Honor. To purchase a limited-edition signed print of *Answering the Call* and support this project, visit [alumni.norwich.edu/shop/merchandise/smhcmchandise](http://alumni.norwich.edu/shop/merchandise/smhcmchandise).



## Norwich University adds Master of Public Health to online offerings

Norwich University is adding to its already robust offerings of degree programs with the brand-new online Master of Public Health (MPH). Additionally, students or professionals who may want to enhance their knowledge without an MPH can do so with five different Public Health Certificates. Dr. Page Spiess heads this new program as the academic director.

"I am delighted to introduce our public health programs," said Provost Karen Gaines, Ph.D. "Our goal is to provide the essential competencies to those on the front lines of public health for physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, scientists, engineers, and



any health care professionals embedded in federal agencies, non-governmental agencies, or the private sector."

"Public health professionals want to help people. We're going to try our darndest to help them improve personal health, community health, or even policies that are going to improve health and support the community," said Spiess. "So why wouldn't Norwich have an academic program that supports students like that?"

Spiess spent over a year working alongside Gaines to get the fledgling program on its feet. "We worked backwards," said Spiess of the process. "What did we want the endpoint to be, how unique did we want our program to be, and what type of student did we want to engage with?" The pair worked in reverse and crafted unique courses

that fit Norwich's mold. "That allows us to continue to get that unique student demographic that we have here," she added.

Global health, disaster response, and crisis management were found to be courses that would engage high-level students with a drive for leadership. Courses like this require qualified staff, but luckily, Norwich provided the starting point.

"I'm creating a dynamic team of instructors, some that we already have here at Norwich in the nursing program and the health and human performance program that can teach for us," said Spiess. "They could have classes they're already comfortable teaching within a public health sphere that they are helping to create online. And then they will be teaching online as we progress."

Reflecting upon her time spent pursuing her own MPH, Spiess said that she wants to ensure that students have access to not only qualified teachers, but also to current professionals. "I want to ensure that we have times where we can bring in a few folks that are currently in various aspects of public health career fields," said Spiess. "The field is super diverse and allowing students to interact with professionals and see how broad the field is means they will have an opportunity in whatever career they choose to use what they learn within our program."

Gaines said that the University will continue its commitment to those in uniformed service, including first responders who put service before themselves. "I am especially proud that we constructed the curriculum to be relevant and ready for today's workforce with five stackable certificates for those who want to learn job-relevant skills while earning credits toward an MPH, a Post-Master's Certificate in Community and Public Health, and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Response Planning for Health, Wellness, and Disease Prevention," said Gaines.

The program kicked off in January 2024 with the first group of MPH students. "We're going to have some students that take what they learned in public health and apply it to the field they're already in. We're going to have some that join us and do a 90 degree turn in their career," said Spiess. "Public health lends itself to being a flexible career option for folks, and I would love for more people to explore that. I want students in 10 or 15 years saying, 'My MPH was the best decision I ever made.'"

## Cadets claim titles in cross country's return to Northfield

Norwich University men's and women's cross country teams both took home titles in the Norwich Cadets Invitational on Oct. 24, 2023, the first meet that the University has hosted in nearly a quarter of a century. The Cadets hosted a pair of in-state counterparts in Vermont State University – Castleton and Vermont State University – Randolph, as well as in-conference foe Lasell University.

The meet consisted of two races, and the women's 6K opened the morning at 10:00 a.m. while the men's 8K began at 11:00 a.m. This meet served as the regular season closer for the men's and women's cross country programs before heading to the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship.

Joelle Moore '27 set the pace in the women's race, taking the individual title with a time of 24:38.6. Moore was followed in quick succession by a pack of four Cadets led by Dabira Ojeyomi '26, who clocked in at 26:12.6. Cece Winters '27, Emmerson Leach '24, and Elena Vargas '26 quickly followed and rounded out the top 10 with times of 26:13.3, 26:54.3, and 26:55.9, respectively. The efforts of the Cadet top five earned them all single-season personal bests for a 6K. Following Vargas, Alexandra Velez '26, and Emma Gizzi-Schmidt '26 rounded out the pack for Norwich.

The men's team was led by Seth Varin '26, who finished second with a time of 29:34.6. Teammate Landon Pandolph '27 followed just a few spots behind with a



Head Coach Michael McGrane, on his bicycle, prepares for the runners to take off in cross country's triumphant return to Norwich.

time of 30:09.7 in fifth place. The top 10 was rounded out by Kyle Duffek '27 and Justin MaGill '25, as both checked in at eighth and ninth. A Castleton runner clocked in at 10th but was quickly followed by back-to-back finishes from Trevin Oldaker '26 and Nate Palter '24. Both teams followed up their Norwich Cadets Invitational performances with top-three finishes at the GNAC Championship, where the women's finished third with 110 points and the men's team took home second place with 55 points.

Next year, Cadet athletics fans can expect more of the same; the success of this year's Norwich Cadets Invitational helped to secure the hosting rights of the next GNAC Championship.

### NORWICH CADETS INVITATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERS:

- Joelle Moore, 1st, 24:38.6
- Dabira Ojeyomi, 6th, 26:12.6
- Cece Winters, 7th, 26:13.3
- Emmerson Leach, 9th, 26:54.3
- Elena Vargas, 10th, 26:55.9
- Alexandra Velez, 12th, 28:49.9
- Emma Gizzi-Schmidt, 17th, 34:49.9

### MEN'S LEADERS:

- Seth Varin, 2nd, 29:34.6
- Landon Pandolph, 5th, 30:09.7
- Kyle Duffek, 8th, 30:49.1
- Justin MaGill, 9th, 31:18.9
- Trevin Oldaker, 11th, 31:50.7
- Nate Palter, 12th, 31:56.4
- Roger Bos, 16th, 33:21.5





Norwich Cadets support Boy Scout campers as they rappel.

## Norwich University Scouting Association hosts historic camporee

BY: JON ALLEN '94

The first weekend of October marked a watershed moment for the Norwich University Scouting Association (NUSA) with the hosting of the 22nd NUSA Camporee, where a total of 147 scouts representing Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, Massachusetts, and Kentucky gathered on The Hill.

Scouts spent the weekend camped out for two nights behind Shapiro Field House. Their Saturday morning kicked off with physical training alongside the Ranger Challenge Team before taking part in a

variety of activities, such as rappelling with the Mountain Cold Weather Team, running the obstacle course and Field Leadership Reaction Course, and participating in soft gun, pellet, and archery ranges. After rotating through all the stations, the group finished the day with a campus tour.

Sunday, the Ranger Company and Norwich Artillery Battery supported demonstrations, ending the weekend on a high note. The entire weekend was planned and executed by the NUSA and Center for Civic Engagement students; the 22nd Camporee was truly student and cadet led.

NUSA had four specific goals: the sanctioning and promotion of the camporee by the Boy Scouts of America; to increase participation to 140 scouts; recognition of NUSA as a scouting organization through

the creation of a Norwich Venturing Crew; and further showcase Norwich to camporee attendees.

These goals were very well met, if not exceeded. The camporee received full support of the Scouts BSA Green Mountain Council who provided the registration platform, reviewed activities for alignment with the Guide to Safe Scouting, and promoted the event to troops in Massachusetts and Vermont, as well as providing insurance in the form of a Certificate of Liability.

The attendance of the camporee increased by 88%, rising from 88 scouts last year to 147 this year. In total, there were 214 in attendance, including adults. Green Mountain Council Scout Executive Mark Saxon presented the official charter to the NUSA cadet leadership that established Venturing

Crew 1819. This charter opens new possibilities for students and cadets to support scouting efforts in Vermont and across the country by offering additional scouting resources.

Throughout the weekend, scouts interacted with cadets and students. Rooks and sophomores were assigned to each troop, and the Future Leaders Camp recruited future campers. Many of the eldest scouts and adults shared intentions to attend the Veterans Day Open House, and their hopes to meet with Venturing Crew 1819.

NUSA is primed to continue pushing forward. NUSA could be considered a hidden gem, considering the impressive number of Eagle and Gold Award Scouts on our campus – and many NUSA students had zero connection to scouting prior to arriving to Norwich. It is truly a differentiator.

Many leaders, alumni, staff, and friends of Norwich helped to make this camporee possible. Most importantly, though, thank you to cadets Harry Murphy and Collin Moss, and the 40-plus cadets and students who volunteered. Their professionalism and fashion in which they represented Norwich University made me and other alumni in attendance proud. Additionally, cadets Colin Riordan and Gene Nyaberi, and student Rose Murphy, worked directly with me prior to the event. The trio were instrumental behind the scenes.

I thank the Corps leadership not only for their support, but also for encouraging the Rooks to support the camporee. All were great Norwich representatives and deserve a sleep-through – if those still exist!



## SAVE THE DATE



### WOMEN KICKING GLASS GALA

Friday, September 20, 2024

Plumley Armory, Norwich University

For more information and a complete list of upcoming events, visit: [alumni.norwich.edu/Events](http://alumni.norwich.edu/Events)



# REMEMBERING OUR HEROES

Vietnam-era alumni return to the Hill, sharing wisdom and receiving honors from Norwich.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

The Vietnam War has been the topic of heated debate since the day it began. What is not debatable, though, is the admirable service of the men and women who voluntarily offered their services to the United States of America. To mark the Vietnam War's 50th commemoration, Norwich University's Alumni Association Board of Directors decided it was the time to pay Vietnam-era Norwich service people the respect they are so very deserving of.

Joe Reagan '04, a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, found inspiration during Norwich's bicentennial celebrations when he heard stories of the first Norwich classes to ship off to Vietnam. "I felt like there was a story to be told and shared with not only other alumni, but students," said Reagan. "We came up with the idea of using the 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War as an opportunity to share the stories of men and women that went to Norwich and served during that era."

Luckily, Reagan's career has involved working with and celebrating Vietnam veterans through a national-level program run by the Department of Defense. "I've seen the impact these sorts of ceremonies and conversations have had on other Vietnam veterans, and that seemed like something that could be a great addition to homecoming weekend," he said, highlighting the reception that many veterans received upon their return to America following the war.

The homecoming celebrations surrounding these veterans culminated in two events: a Legacy of Learning panel and a half-time celebration during the football game to honor the veterans. The panel kicked off the commemoration on Thursday evening. "We pulled together a panel of alumni that had served during Vietnam and continued to serve communities," said Reagan. "We wanted to shine a light on the legacy of service that was left behind in Vietnam, and the legacy of service that continued well beyond their service in the military."

One of those veterans on the panel was Bill Quinn '65. "They reached out about a seminar, and I said, 'Sure, I'll be there and talk about anything you want,'" said Quinn, a helicopter pilot. One of his earliest assignments was at Fort Bragg with an assault

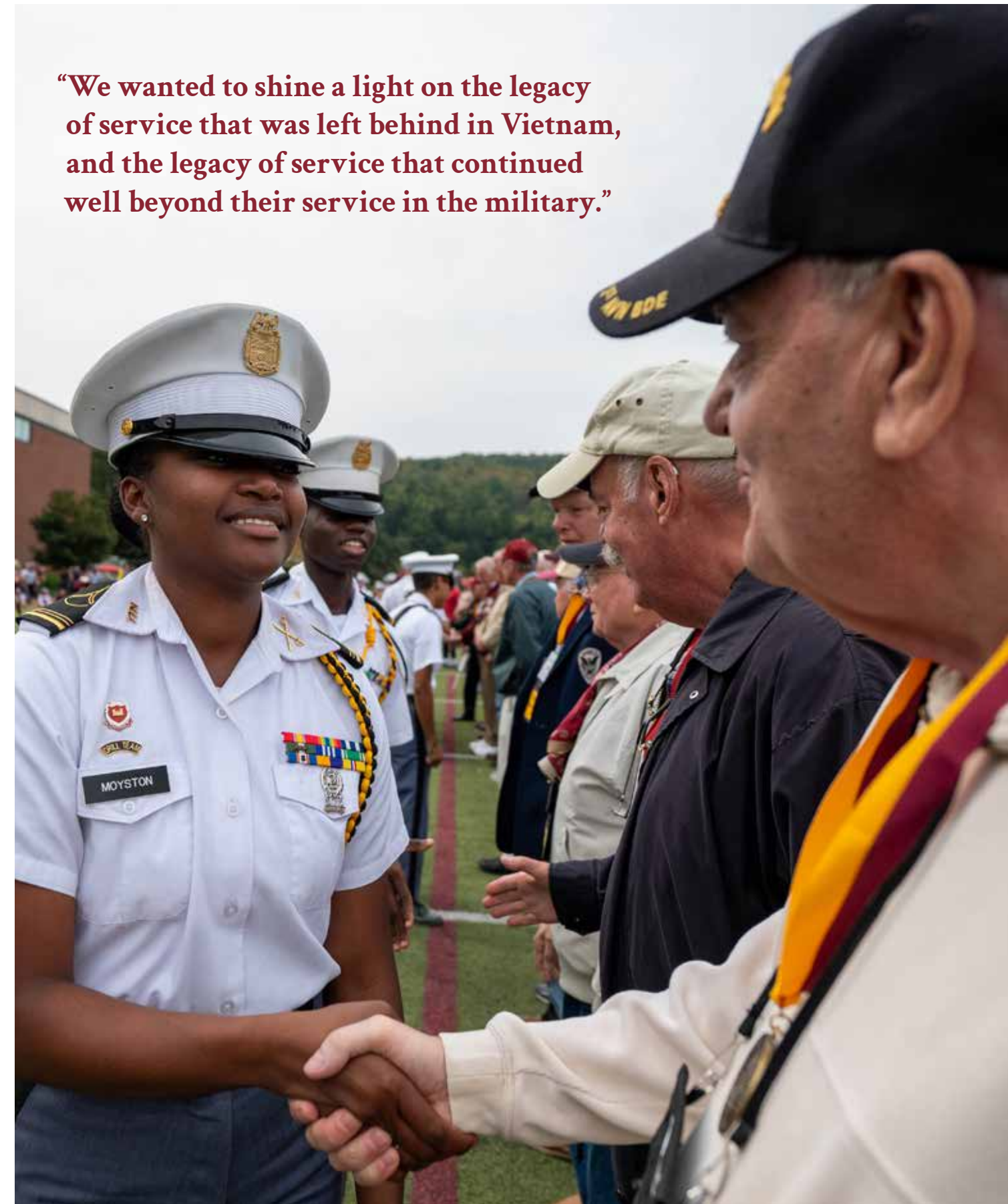
helicopter company where they were assigned equipment, got helicopters, and trained for six months before transitioning to Vietnam. "I spent a year in Vietnam, arriving in October of '67," said Quinn. "I flew helicopter gunships for the first six months, and then I ended up getting promoted to captain and made a platoon leader."

Reagan said that the goal was to bring these veterans' perspectives to both students and alumni. "We look at my generation of veterans post-9/11 and we're entering that similar time period where our time and service is starting to come to an end," he said. "Many of us are trying to figure out, how do we continue to maintain that service identity in our post-service careers?" he said, adding that hearing how they parlayed their military experience into success after serving was hugely beneficial. "I was happy to be able to do it, and it was nice to be back at school," said Quinn.

Two days later, during halftime of the football game on Saturday, Norwich veterans were honored on the field for their service in Vietnam. The veterans were presented with a commemorative lapel pin and a written token of gratitude to acknowledge their services given to the country. "The treatment they received when returning home was not appropriate. We wanted to make that right," said Reagan, adding that one of his favorite parts of the weekend was the amount of effort cadets put into the commemoration. "I loved that we had a great number of student volunteers participate. They quickly organized themselves in order to give those veterans the appropriate levels of respect and admiration."

Reagan is disappointed that many memories and sentiments surrounding Vietnam veterans have been negative throughout history. "When we look at the legacy of those that actually served there, there are a lot of positive things that we can examine, and I see parallels that exist in today's world," he said. "That's an area where we can use stories that need to be focused on, especially at a school like Norwich, which is charged with training the next generation of leaders."

**"We wanted to shine a light on the legacy of service that was left behind in Vietnam, and the legacy of service that continued well beyond their service in the military."**



C/SFC Kimeisha Moyston '25 celebrates the service of Norwich Vietnam-era veterans on Sabine Field during Homecoming's commemoration.



## GENERAL GORDON SULLIVAN '59

Celebrating a life of service to others.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT



Norwich University legend and retired United States Army General Gordon Sullivan '59 passed away on Jan. 2. Few citizen-soldiers cemented themselves in both Norwich University's and the world's history in the fashion that Gordon has, being a shining example of Partridge's citizen-soldier and spending his life in service.

Gordon first arrived on The Hill in 1955 from his Massachusetts home and spent his years in Northfield as a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, studying history, and serving fellow students in the mess hall. Still, he was not sure if military life was for him until he attended a summer camp at Fort Knox

in 1958. "At that point I knew I wanted to get my commission and I wanted to serve. Once I figured that out, I knew I wanted to become a real soldier – and I did become a real soldier, and I loved it," said Gordon when reflecting upon his story.

He began his historic career by commissioning as a second lieutenant of armor, eventually parlaying his education and experience into higher profile positions. Starting in 1983 he served as Assistant Commandant, United States Army Armor School; in 1987 as Deputy Commandant, United States Army Command and General Staff College; in 1988 as Commanding General, 1st infantry Division (Mechanized); and in

1990 as Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

Though some would be content, Gordon always sought more. He was promoted to his final position in the Army when President Bill Clinton assigned him the 32nd Army Chief of Staff. In 1993, Clinton would assign him the position of acting Secretary of the Army. Gordon is currently the only person to ever serve in both positions simultaneously.

Gordon retired from the Army in 1995. One of the country's most renowned soldiers, Gen. Colin Powell, wrote of Gordon: "General Sullivan is one of the Army's most visionary leaders. His

insights into leadership and human behavior are truly profound. His experience transforming the Army is a powerful story – one from which leaders in all walks of life can learn."

Following his retirement, Gordon went into the private sector, though his itch for service never left. The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) had an open presidential position in 1998, and he found a home there. Gordon led the educational nonprofit for nearly 20 years until 2016. The AUSA promptly awarded him the Gen. George Catlett Marshall Medal, the organization's highest award. "He went to AUSA because he wanted to help soldiers," said Lori Sullivan, Gordon's wife. "He was just a great, great person."

His obsession with service was not limited to the military. Gordon loved Norwich and began on the Board of Trustees in 1995 before spending 13 years as its chair. His continuous efforts on behalf of our community were a constant beacon of light and hope for the future. Norwich's Smithsonian-affiliated Sullivan Museum and History Center is named in his honor and highlights his passion and dedication for both history and Norwich University. "He loved history and gave so much of himself to Norwich," said Lori.

Gordon continued serving even after stepping down from his positions on the Norwich board and the AUSA. He next led the board of the Army Historical Foundation as its chairman where he led efforts to build the National Museum of the United States Army in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The

museum opened in 2020 and is the only museum that focuses on the history of the U.S. Army.

Few individuals have their spirits interwoven into Norwich University's fabric like Gordon does. His relentless urge to serve others made him a household name for anyone who has walked on The Hill. Mention of his name on campus evokes strong responses from those in the Norwich community today, though he left his trustee position in 2016. Whether presenting during the Todd Lecture Series or simply shaking hands and sharing stories, he consistently found ways to engage with our community. "For at least a year he was Distinguished Leader in Residence. They had a title for him where he went up there and spent time with the faculty and students," said Lori. "I think that was someplace where the students and faculty really got to know Gordon and know that he gave so much of himself to every person. Every person was special to him."

"He was a huge intellect and a brilliant guy who was extremely humble. You'd know it when he gave a speech or finding out what he's accomplished. He could talk to anybody, whether a new cadet at Norwich or the president of the United States," said Lori, highlighting his ability to be the walking embodiment of Capt. Alden Partridge's citizen-soldier. When thinking of Partridge, Norwich University, and the spirit of service, it is impossible to not include Gordon Sullivan in the same thought.

His wake was held on Jan. 11 in his home state of Massachusetts. "It was

an impressive sendoff for a great man and soldier," said Karen Rinaldo, an artist and close friend of Gordon and Lori. Rinaldo noted that "Norwich University's presence was felt," during the ceremony honoring his life. "So many people expressed how he made them feel and what he meant to them," said Lori. "It was really moving to hear that. He really loved Norwich. It's where he found himself and where he figured out exactly who he was, what he wanted to do, and how he was going to live his life."

Six days later, on Jan. 17, the Corps of Cadets formed on the Upper Parade Ground (UP) at where a drill team detail fired three rifle volleys. This was followed by the sounding of Echo Taps by Regimental buglers and the melody of Amazing Grace performed by the Norwich Pipes and Drum unit. Lori was then presented with a Norwich flag with three spent shell casings tucked tightly inside its precision folds.

Gordon resided in Falmouth, Massachusetts, and was married to Lori Boyle Sullivan since 2017. He was the proud father of three children and grandfather of three, and was previously married to Miriam Gay Loftus, who predeceased him in 2014. In honor of his service and dedication to this nation and its citizens, Gen. Gordon Sullivan's final resting place is in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.



# A FRIEND FOREVER

Fin, a statue of a service dog, finds his forever home on campus.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

Norwich University's Fins & Feathers alumni group always finds ways to give back and inspire. Their passion for the University and its family burns bright, and with the gift and dedication of a new statue on campus, the organization hopes to be a light in somebody's darkness. The statue features Fin, a Labrador Retriever service dog named after the alumni group, sitting alongside an empty bench where his handler should be sitting.

Randall H. Miller '93 is a member of Fins & Feathers and one of the many individuals responsible for playing a part in the statue's realization. "I became involved with Fins & Feathers several years ago and I've just been struck by all of the help that the organization has been able to give," he said.

Their ideas around finding a way to support those living with post-traumatic stress (PTS) began swirling nearly two years ago. Miller said the idea was natural, considering the career fields that Norwich graduates tend to gravitate to. "We don't all go into the military or law enforcement, but a good percentage of grads self-select for those high-stress and high-risk jobs," he said. "But this stuff doesn't only affect them, PTS doesn't discriminate. We knew that it was prevalent enough to do something about it."

They felt a statue was a natural fit because of its evergreen nature. "We wanted something that was going to be lasting," he said, adding that since statues attract so much attention, he hopes that it will prompt people to pause and think about their mental health. "It leaves interpretation somewhat open and creates something that everyone can personally appreciate and attach themselves to, either through their own story or the story of someone they know."

The statue was crafted and eventually installed on the northern end of Dewey Hall in a "serene little spot," said Miller. It was dedicated on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, during the University's homecoming celebrations. Miller was worried that turnout might not be as hoped for, but those worries were quickly forgotten. "We had a ton of people there supporting it, and I was honored to be there representing Fins & Feathers," he said.

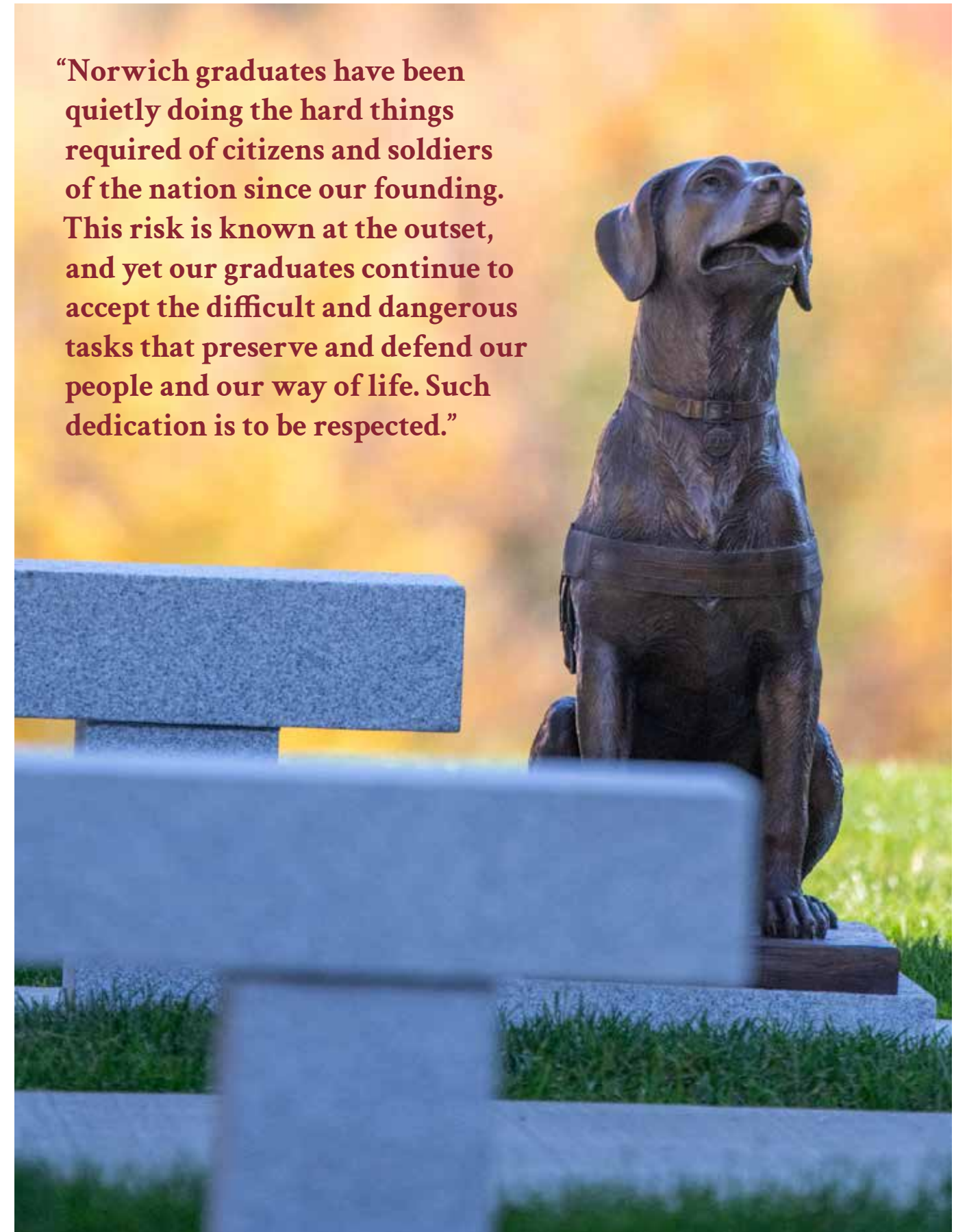
Alongside Miller during the dedication ceremony was Brigadier General (VSM) Bill McCollough '91, Commandant of Cadets and a retired United States Marine Corps officer. Though some may not know it, McCollough is an avid reader of poetry with a strong admiration of Edgar Guest's work. Through reading Guest's poetry, McCollough felt compelled by his piece "Lord, Make Me a Regular Man" to write a Norwich-inspired rendition. He entitled his piece "Norwich Homecoming," and shared it with the crowd during his remarks at the statue's dedication.

"We sometimes mistake post-traumatic stress as a new phenomenon, but that is not the case," said McCollough to the crowd. "It's been called nostalgia, soldiers' heart, shellshock, combat fatigue, post-Vietnam syndrome, and now PTS. We are getting better at recognizing and treating these hidden wounds, using the same care and respect accorded those with physical injuries."

"Norwich graduates have been quietly doing the hard things required of citizens and soldiers of the nation since our founding. Doing those things sometimes results in wounds, and sometimes those wounds are invisible to the untrained eye, like PTS," he continued. "This risk is known at the outset, and yet our graduates continue to accept the difficult and dangerous tasks that preserve and defend our people and our way of life. Such dedication is to be respected."

One of those Norwich graduates that quietly took on the responsibility of service is Lt. Col. Christo-

**"Norwich graduates have been quietly doing the hard things required of citizens and soldiers of the nation since our founding. This risk is known at the outset, and yet our graduates continue to accept the difficult and dangerous tasks that preserve and defend our people and our way of life. Such dedication is to be respected."**



Fin sits alongside the bench just outside of Dewey Hall during his first official day on The Hill.



pher Cadigan '95, a retired U.S. Army Special Forces officer. Cadigan was diagnosed with PTS and a traumatic brain injury in 2018.

“Everywhere I go now, I have a four-legged furry friend that really starts to tell my story before anyone has had a chance to meet me,” said Cadigan. Additionally, he credits Alden Partridge’s “rigorous lifestyle” as a key contributor to regaining his sense of self. “When I come to Norwich, it’s special. It feels more like home than any other place.”

Cadigan arrived at Norwich as a combat veteran from Desert Storm where he served in the Army Reserve, and eventually recognized the early seeds of PTS in hindsight years later. “That first cannon fire on that first night was a bit of a surprise for me because I didn’t know that it was coming,” he said. “There was a visceral response, there was something I’d experienced before, and this was bringing me back to that moment. I didn’t recognize what that was and didn’t understand until years later that PTS is probably what that was,” he said, adding that he was not surprised. “It was a relief to know that there was something there, it had a name, and there were some approaches and treatments that were potentially going to be helpful,” he said.

Cadigan and other soldiers like him represent excellence, according to Miller. “He’s someone who had big lofty goals in life and career, to become a Green Beret. To pull that off and to do that job for several decades, he’s an inspiration,” said Miller. “But the fact that he’s human, and he’s not bulletproof, and that he’s willing to talk to people and be an advocate for mental health when it’s not easy to do that publicly, does a huge public service not just to Norwich, but to everybody.”

Cadigan said that he tells people, “Don’t wait. Life’s too short, and every moment that we put off spending the right time, the right way, and with some precision can make a huge difference in how you feel in the moment and how you feel tomorrow.”

Fin will forever sit alongside the empty bench as a reminder to check in on yourself and others, as well as a memorial to those who are no longer here to sit with their loved ones. Miller hopes that “Whoever walks past it stops to give Fin a pat on the head and takes a moment to think about their own mental health and the people they care about.”

## NORWICH HOMECOMING

Bill McCollough’s rendition of Edgar Guest’s  
“Lord, Make Me a Regular Man”

“This year I will try – to be braver and bolder.  
Just a bit wiser because I am older,  
Just a bit kinder to those I might meet,  
Just a bit stronger taking defeat;  
And so, for our Homecoming, this is my plea –  
Lord, make a Norwich Man out of me.

This I will try – to be just a bit finer,  
More of a helper and less of a whiner,  
Just a bit quicker to stretch out my hand  
To help an Alum who’s struggling to stand,  
This is my prayer for the next year to be,  
Lord, make a Norwich Man out of me.

This I will try – to be just a bit fairer,  
Just a bit better, just a bit squarer,  
Not quite so ready to judge and to blame,  
Quicker to help everyone in the game,  
Not so prone other’s failing to see,  
Lord, make a Norwich Man out of me.

This I will try – to be just a bit truer,  
Less of a wisher and more of a doer,  
Stronger and better, more willing to give,  
Living and helping my classmates to live!  
So, this is my Homecoming prayer and my plea –  
Lord, make a Norwich Man out of me.”

Essayons -



The crowd gathered at the dedication of the PTS statue honor the nation’s flag, remembering those that are affected by their service.



# DREAMING OF SERVICE

Armed with his grit and determination, Dryden Phelps '19 chose Norwich University as his path to serving his nation.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

"Since I was five, the only thing I wanted to do was be a Marine," said Capt. Dryden Phelps '19, who grew up watching coverage of the war in Iraq on television. "The thing that stuck with me was Fallujah, watching what all the Marines did. I wanted to be one of those guys."

Phelps grew up in south Texas and attended an all-boys military school in pursuit of his goal. After spending four years there and graduating, it was time to think about his next steps towards becoming a Marine. He would eventually meet a Marine master sergeant who had served with a Norwich lieutenant in Vietnam. "He told me that Norwich lieutenant was the best lieutenant that he had served with in combat. That motivated me to go there," said Phelps.

Phelps had a narrow focus once he was on campus: become a Marine. "The Norwich Marine program is unparalleled compared to its peers," he said, pointing to how hard the Marine cadre trains. "I saw the leadership training and outperforming the vast majority of the Midshipmen on hikes, PT, and whatever else. That was extremely motivating, and I decided that I wanted to be that guy."

"I went into Norwich very piss and vinegar, but I matured a lot," he said. "I wanted to fight the Taliban." Many in Phelps's generation shared the sentiment and joined the military when they came of age. "All of us wanted to go and serve our country and take it to the enemy. But over time at Norwich, I got exposed to what actually makes the Marine Corps." Phelps pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Studies In War and Peace because he wanted to be as prepared as possible to become a soldier. "It's a deep study of why soldiers do what they do, and why we follow orders, and why we should protest against other orders," he said. "It gives it this kind of humanities perspective behind combat scenarios and really prepares the mind of a young soldier."

During his sophomore year, Phelps had the opportunity to go to Kosovo and Macedonia where he attended a leadership seminar. He was able to interact with the Kosovo Security Forces and the cadets of the Macedonian Military



Capt. Dryden Phelps '19 (center) is joined by the Marine Corps League New England Division's National Vice Commandant, Patrick Maguire (left), and Norwich's Academic Director of M.A. in Military History Program Dr. David Ulbrich in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Ulbrich spent a week at Guantanamo Bay where he served as the keynote speaker during the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Cuzco Well.

Academy, as well as a variety of other countries' organizations, through "a giant NATO exercise" for junior leaders. "At that time, the global war on terror was still a really big thing, and we were uniting and discussing ways to combat terrorism around the world through the lens of decision making in combat," he said. "Here I was, I think 19 or 20 years old, sitting there talking to colonels in foreign armies about combat and how to employ forces to handle everything from noncombatant evacuations to full-on warfare."

Phelps learned how to be a soldier and a leader while on The Hill, and credits the exposure to different opportunities like the trip to Europe and the Norwich Artillery Battery for his military preparedness. "I got exposed to what actually makes an army and what differentiates the Marine Corps," he said. He learned the intricacies of what makes militaries function and how management can impact the forces. "It's understanding that yes, you have your battle drills, strategy, and tactics, but the same situation cannot be solved the same way every single time, nor with the same leadership style."

This philosophy guided his senior year at Norwich. "With graduation and the Marine Corps kind of facing me directly in the future, I took a backline approach on the Corps and became a training

NCO, focused on my exterior activity of the artillery battery, and focused on my education," said Phelps. "What came out of that was understanding different leadership styles and philosophies."

His preparation would serve him well at his first duty station, Camp Lejeune. "I realized how if I hadn't taken that time in my senior year to focus on my growth and education, I would not have been the lieutenant that I was at Camp Lejeune for my first group of Marines, and I certainly wouldn't be the officer I am now if I hadn't focused on that," said Phelps, adding that his biggest point of growth was in problem solving, both in the line of duty and outside of it. "You have to be their commander not only in the field, but you also have to be the person that's going to back them up in their own personal lives."

Phelps would spend four years at Camp Lejeune before his next opportunity came knocking. He was offered to take over as the executive officer for the Marine Corps Security Force Company at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "I had just gotten home from deployment where I had been in the same

infantry battalion for three years, and I was offered the position on the recommendation of my commander." Phelps jumped on the offer and is now the executive officer of the Marine Corps Security Force Company at Guantanamo Bay. This is especially impressive considering he was a lieutenant at the time, and the position is meant for those with the rank of captain.

As an executive officer at Guantanamo Bay, Phelps has a unique set of responsibilities. On one hand, he is responsible for the administrative and operational functions of an overseas-posted rifle company, and on the other, he is responsible for the security of the base and its inhabitants. The base is surrounded by a 17.4-mile perimeter and Cuban minefield, for which Phelps is responsible for overseeing Marines in the towers and on patrol.

Additionally, in the absence of his commander, he must interact across the fence with Cuban officials. "The guys on the other side of that fence are professional soldiers that do this every single day; we are professional Marines who do this every single day. We

understand that geopolitical factors could change the way that either one of us do our job, but we're going to be professionals at the end of the day and neither one of us is going to try and be the aggressor," he said.

While the lifestyle at Guantanamo Bay might not be one that graces the cover of magazines, Phelps called it the "most secure neighborhood in the world," because Marines handle external security and Navy sailors handle the internal security. Plus, those on the base have the only McDonald's in Cuba, movie theaters, a hospital, and plenty of things to do outdoors. "The beaches and spear fishing are really nice," said Phelps. "The Caribbean water is gorgeous."

While he realizes that everyday life is good, he knows that just over the fence is the potential for his world to change on a dime. "There's always the imminent idea that you are in a place that does not necessarily want you here," he said. "We have to be cognizant of that and ensure that we are consummate warfighting professionals day in and day out. That is truly the most important thing for the Marines here to get."



# BONDS OF GOLD: A NORWICH LEGACY

Alumni from across generations donate their cherished rings to the first-ever legacy ring melt, where the metals from the donations will live on in future graduates' class rings in perpetuity.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

The Norwich University class ring is a lifelong reminder of graduates' time spent on The Hill and the University's guiding values of honor, respect, and integrity. In celebration of the Corps of Cadets' 100-year ring tradition, the Bonds of Gold ring melt was founded and is a program which will melt down existing class rings to be used in the forging of future rings.

"We've been kicking the idea around for over a decade," said Deputy Commandant of Cadets Bill Passalacqua '88. "It finally got to fruition this year, thanks to the Alumni Association and a committee that was formed to get this thing off the ground."

Alumni and their families were invited to donate class rings back to the University to be melted down and mixed with new gold to forge rings for the future generations of Norwich students. The rings were melted into an ingot to produce the current Class of 2025 rings. An ingot of gold from this class will be secured and added to the Class of 2026 rings along with gold received from next year's ring melt to carry forward the gold of previous rings. This process will continue in perpetuity, linking donors with the generations that follow in their footsteps.

The Bonds of Gold inaugural ring melt was held during homecoming celebrations on Thursday, Sept. 21 in Mack Hall Auditorium, where Chairman of the 2024 MCV Ring Committee, C/MAJ Ian Horton, welcomed the crowd. "I am honored to be the master of ceremonies for this extraordinary event," he said. "We have many rich traditions forged over our 200 years. Today, we start a new one: the Bonds of Gold Legacy Ring Melt."

Lt. Col. Steve Gagner '03 & M'17, USA (Ret.), was the first to take the stage and donate his ring during the ceremony. "I chose to donate my ring because I believe in Norwich and the privilege that comes with the right to wear the ring," he said. "The ring isn't just a rite of passage, it's a tangible reminder that every day

we're required and charged with living up to the mission of the University and fulfilling Captain Partridge's dreams of being a useful citizenry."

Maj. Daniel Schwartz '08, USA, was unable to attend in person, but his ring was delivered, and C/SSG James Leary read a letter he penned for the occasion. "My experience at Norwich University provided my baseline for my career as an Army officer as I learned how to work across different services and with different counterparts, and how crucial teamwork and leadership are to the mission's success," he wrote. "The ring is a physical embodiment of Norwich values, personal accomplishment, and pride. I'm honored to provide my Norwich ring for the new rings with the hope that the next generation finds the same personal satisfaction and accomplishment."

Additionally, the rings of Kenneth Hobitz '72 and Ferdinand Pacione '63 were gifted to the Bonds of Gold melt. Hobitz's ring was donated by his wife, Patrica Hobitz, and Pacione's rings by his son Matthew Pacione M'16, in honor of their memory. They, plus the two living donors, became the first complement of Norwich University graduates to provide a piece of themselves to the melt.

Passalacqua returned to the stage following the donations and welcomed a handful of representatives from Jostens. "Jostens has been a valued partner for many years and has been a



C/SFC Shannon Hobbs '25 handles the donated rings on stage in Mack Hall Auditorium before they are melted down.



great advocate and supporter of Norwich,” he said, and thanked them for their contributions to the Norwich ring program over time.

One of those representatives in the crowd, Scott Gross, took to the podium to explain how the process would unfold. “They’re melted at about 2,100 degrees before being poured into an ingot,” he said. “It’s then shipped to a refinery for processing and gets melted and poured into a water bath to form flakes, and it looks a lot like your cornflakes that you have for breakfast,” he said, adding that this separates the metals, allowing for their recovery and use in future rings.

Gross left the podium and made his way to center stage where the rings would be melted. There, in front of the respectful crowd, Gross began the process. He melted the rings and poured them into ingots as the crowd watched, some even joining him on stage to get a good view of the newly melted rings.

Once completed, Class of 2025 Chairman, C/SFC Seth Jenkins ’25, thanked guests for coming to the inaugural Bonds of Gold ring melt. “I would like to express gratitude to those who made this 100th anniversary of the Norwich Ring and Bonds of Gold possible,” he said.

“The Alumni Association’s Bonds of Gold Committee members thank you for making this decades-old idea into a reality.”

He also thanked Col. Richard Prevost ’76, USA (Ret.), for his steadfast dedication to the program and hundreds of hours spent researching the Norwich ring and collecting ring designs to publish *100 Years of Norwich University Corps of Cadets Rings*, a book which chronicles the ring’s storied history. “Your book is a permanent part of the Norwich Archives, benefiting today’s and future cadets,” he said. To date, the book has been exceedingly popular and sold out on both of its first two print runs.

Jenkins then welcomed Prevost to the stage, where he removed the Bonds of Gold ingot and officially initiated the transfer. Jenkins, at the podium, said to the crowd: “Let it be written on this 21st day of September, in the year of our Lord 2023, the Norwich University Bonds of Gold legacy is born.”



Scott Gross pours the molten rings into an ingot.



C/SFC Ryan Tremel '25 (left) and C/MSG Tyler Sheindlin '25 celebrate the first-ever Bonds of Gold ingot.



# A BRIGHT STAR IN NORTHFIELD

International student Amrutaa Vibho '26 finds her home at Norwich after discovering her love of learning.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

The path to Norwich University for Amrutaa Vibho '26 was unique, even for an international student. Growing up in New Delhi, India, she learned at an early age of her passion for music. She was particularly drawn to the drums, and initially attended Trinity College, London's institution in India to pursue a music degree focused on percussion. She was nearing the end of her degree program when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. "COVID happened to everything I had planned, and it made me realize the importance of the education that I needed," she said.

Vibho decided to take a gap year rather than formally continuing college immediately. During this time, she enrolled in various academic programs. "It started with cybersecurity and computer science stuff, before going into artificial intelligence," she said. Eventually, she found an interest in astronomy and astrophysics, a far-cry from her former education as a drummer; though, thinking back, she had some kind of interest in the subject dating back to childhood. "When I was young, the Columbia shuttle disaster happened," said Vibho, whose father was posted at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and covering it at the time. "That was my introduction to the idea that there's something beyond the sky called space."

Her academic reawakening and rekindled interest in space was a much different endeavor than her previous goal of becoming

a career musician. "I just never had the rigor or academic preparation to even think that I could pursue physics, or math, or whatever," she said, thinking of a time before she was throwing herself into her studies.

Vibho's hard work and persistence paid off as she landed a role in a research project with the University of Chicago, where she truly felt at home. "I started doing research with them on exoplanets and how to discover exoplanets using artificial intelligence," she said. "One thing led to another, and I applied for permission to use the Goddard Spaceflight Center's Fermi-LAT telescope." Unsurprisingly, this was not your everyday request. "It became a huge thing," said Vibho. "It became a research paper and everything, and I happened to successfully qualify about 31 dark matter candidates at the outskirts of the Milky Way galaxy."

"Going from absolutely not having any academic background to that level, it took a lot of preparation," she said. "That one year was maybe 16 hours of studying per day, every single day." During all of it, she was also accepted into programs from Stanford and Yale. "I was doing that and preparing for the SATs and all of that stuff because I got interested in coming to the U.S."

In the meantime, she was selected to go into suborbital space in a program through the Canadian Space Agency, the Institute for Astronomical Sciences. "Basically, I would study polar mesospheric clouds – so, lightning that shoots upwards from



Vibho tackles another research project in the lab.



clouds that affects spacecraft.” It was noticed during the program that she had a knack for the subject. Knowing that she was interested in making it to America, someone in the program tossed out the idea of trying to take the test-pilot route to the U.S.

“That was a possibility I never heard of before,” said Vibho. She took a long-shot and applied to the Naval Academy; they loved her academics, but since she is not a citizen, she was not eligible for acceptance. They suggested she look into the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. “When I looked at ROTC, I saw Norwich was the birthplace of ROTC, and I’m someone who believes in founding principles,” she said. “That’s why I came to Norwich. Something just drew me in – the culture, the discipline, the formations, the customs and courtesies.”

Once she was officially a Rook, she quickly realized she wanted to rise to the position of Guidon Bearer. “That’s an attractive position because you can influence people and you represent the whole company,” she said. “From what I’ve seen, we have a lot of academic-minded people. Sure, they’re excellent in their military disciplines, but I want to show people that Norwich is very smart, especially in the Corps.” Fast-forward to today, and she is the Guidon Bearer of Hotel Company.

“Now, I want to follow in the footsteps of my two mentors,” said Vibho about moving up in the Corps. “They’re pushing me toward becoming battalion command sergeant major and then regimental commander as opposed to company commander,” and added that “I love that we have a shared sense of purpose because we go through Rookdom together.”

Even though she now has her responsibilities in the Corps to attend to, Vibho is still

pursuing her dreams of space. During a recent trip with President Anarumo to Chicago, she had the chance to meet former U.S. military leadership from both the Army and Navy. Vibho mentioned her goal of obtaining citizenship, and rather than suggesting the military or trying for an “Einstein visa,” they suggested she appeal directly to NASA. “So, this summer I got awarded a research fellowship where I’m designing water treatment systems for the International Space Station,” said Vibho.

What started as a “small summer project” now has potential to become a multi-year contract. “I was told by the people I met in Chicago that every four years NASA selects astronauts, and the last selection took place in March of 2020,” said Vibho. “It just so happens that the next round is March of 2024, and even though I’m not a U.S. citizen, they encouraged me to prove myself to NASA and try to make my way into the moon program for 2024.”

Her lofty goal will take some delicate maneuvering because she needs to earn a doctorate degree. Luckily, she already has research under her belt with the International Space Station. “It’s the technicalities of the paperwork, it’s never happened before that an undergraduate is also dual enrolled as a Ph.D. student and they’re trying to work that out,” she said. “If that happens, I’d be able to prove academic ability and apply for the program to the moon. That’s where I am right now in candidacy for the Artemis program.”

As if that was not enough work, Vibho said she works on “multiple research projects at the same time.” Her primary area of research is high-energy astrophysics, which concerns itself with black holes and dark matter. “Finding the origin of the universe, trying to figure out what black holes emerged first, or the Big Bang and

everything else like that,” she explained.

One of her other current projects is in partnership with MIT and the Ukrainian government. Its objective is to find radionuclide poisoning in their drinking water following Russia’s bombings. “We’re developing protocols to detect uranium, arsenic, thorium, and radioactive metals that would poison people in their drinking water.”

Still, she somehow found her way back to the drums. “There’s a drum kit in the chapel that I’m trying to get fixed and start a new heavy metal band,” she said, further highlighting the diverse opportunities the University provides to its students. Whether through academics, her work in the Corps, or her first-love, music, Vibho finds a way to explore it all at Norwich. Thinking of her post-Norwich future, she said that “Whether I end up NASA contracted, another person is Marine Corps contracted, or if they end up overseas somewhere, we all go through the same suffering, and I don’t think I could find that at a civilian college.”



Once studying to become a professional musician, Vibho traded in her sheet music for a whiteboard full of notes.

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# THE GENERAL

Inspired by General Gordon Sullivan '59 and his service, a Massachusetts artist and author composes a poem in his image.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

"I didn't have any introduction to service when I was younger," said Karen Rinaldo, partner at the Gallery on Main in Falmouth, Massachusetts. "When I was getting out of school, there was always that part of me that felt something was missing. I kind of regretted that." Coincidentally, her life's path that had always followed art eventually merged with a passion and appreciation for country and service.

The Gallery on Main, while primarily being an art gallery, doubles as an event space where they host veterans' events for the large population of veterans in Falmouth. Eventually, Rinaldo happened to meet General Gordon R. Sullivan '59, USA (Ret.), and his wife, Lori. As the trio's friendship blossomed, Rinaldo read a copy of his book, "Hope Is Not a Method: What Business Leaders Can Learn from America's Army." She said that she was inspired by his dedication to service and commitment to the military and that it "almost leaves you without words."

As artists often do, Rinaldo took to the pen in an attempt to express herself. "If I can take my words, my pen, and inspire someone with a feeling that maybe they can't express, I feel as though I've contributed something significant," she said. "Gordon's commitment to service

and everything he has experienced is the inspiration behind 'A Soldier.'"

Rinaldo spent countless hours submerging herself in the subject matter to gain familiarity. She compares the process to painting and conveying a feeling through an artistic medium. "You're going to feel what I feel," she said. "I try to convey that in words that soldiers would use, that soldiers would think." She tries to imagine herself in those moments where a soldier is in a foxhole, or what it must be like to open a perfume-scented letter from a loved one. "I can't truly imagine what that would be like, but just after taking the pen and writing those words, I'm totally drained. It's emotional for me."

"It was an inspirational piece because of my friendship with General Sullivan and Lori," said Rinaldo. "That became the impetus of how I came to write it, but then it became more about what a soldier is. I think it's something that any service man or woman, and their families, can relate to."

Lori said that friends and family who came over to visit and read the poem were blown away by Rinaldo's ability to convey emotion. "It really comes across like Karen had some military experience," said Lori. "You can feel the emotion in the poem, and everyone

who reads it says that." Gordon cited the third stanza as a particular set of truths, highlighting soldiers' eagerness to serve their country and its people. Rinaldo said, "When there's something in a poem or a piece of writing that can hit the heart like that and really make an emotional connection with people, it's so special for me."

Rinaldo wants everyone who reads the poem, whether service people or not, to be inspired by soldiers like General Sullivan and his legacy. "I hope that anyone who reads this will see that type of inner ability to want to make a difference in the world and to do something that contributes to society and makes life a little bit better," said Rinaldo. "It's something that I've tried to pass on in the words. It's something that becomes part of your personality, part of the fabric of who you are."

General Gordon Sullivan '59 passed away in January and his final resting place is in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.



Gen. Gordon Sullivan '59 and cadets share a Norwich moment together during one of his trips back to The Hill.

## A SOLDIER

BY KAREN RINALDO

They say a soldier is the average of men.

Without wavering they will go where orders send them.

With their life on the line they protect and defend.

I don't call that the average of men.

A soldier believes in the cause and the fight

And will stay with his troops through the dawns early light.

A bunker is no home, a fox hole, no safe den.

They are not the average of men.

And war takes its toll on the earth and man's soul

Yet if you asked, they would do it again.

Scarred, exhausted, young dazed faces mapped the places they'd been

These are not the average of men.

A letter from a lover

Was not enough to tame the fear...

And that perfume scented letter,

Was lost in battle, smoke filled air.

On your chest a row of medals

Reminds of a time that gallantly addressed,

The bravest and finest,

You endured the ultimate test.

You are the finest of our nation.

And that valor honors all those deeds,

Another anonymous face in a dangerous place,

In a country's time of need.

You are the red, white and blue,

You are every stripe and every star,

And we stand in awe and salute you,

Those who are no longer here and those who are.

It has been said that in composure

Sanity breeds beyond wars fiery lines.

And that which makes us stronger

Brings understanding and sometimes forgiveness, in complex times.

They say a soldier is but the average of men.

They've been to hell and back again.

Doing what the country expected and asked of them.

I don't call that the average of men.

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# REJUVENATION

A passion-driven project born of an alum's curiosity aims to take the University to new heights.

STORY BY ZACK BENNETT

"We have to stay true to our core values," said Norwich University Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff Danielle Pelczarski when thinking about the institution's path forward. "This rebrand and marketing campaign is us very clearly and deliberately getting back to our identity and being intentional about who we are: the most historic senior private military college in our nation."

Norwich leadership wants Norwich to leverage the vast wealth of excellence that the University offers. "We aren't as well-known as we should be," said Pelczarski. "This rejuvenation and initiative aren't just about a logo; we are rejuvenating ourselves and telling our story better." In that spirit, the new logo features elements that are distinct to Norwich: the typeface is inspired by lettering on buildings and signs around campus; the familiar maroon; the cavalry sabers from cadets' dress-uniform pins; and the year Norwich first opened its doors to the eager citizens prepared to make a difference.

The University's previous logo had "a wonderful run," and Pelczarski admires the history for which it honored. "It celebrated our founder through Alden Partridge's image alongside the staircase and lamp post," she said, referencing Norwich's ambition to continuously aim higher while being led by Partridge's vision. "The new logo is getting back to the basics of who we are, the original senior military college

and birthplace of ROTC." And the place where students are challenged to not only learn but to become the best version of themselves to serve their families, communities, and country.

The new logo is paired with what is known as a "final positioning" in the marketing world. That positioning takes everything that makes Norwich special and encapsulates it into a singular idea: "Go Beyond." Norwich has always aimed to recruit gritty, determined, and resilient students who are ready to take on the challenges that await them on The Hill, and this positioning allows the University to tell them what they can expect to accomplish with just two words. "When we say, 'Go Beyond,' we're talking about going beyond your comfort level," said Pelczarski. "Here, you can do things like climb into the rugged mountains of central Vermont while at the same time stimulating your intellectual curiosities. You can go beyond your expected boundaries, whether it's intellectual, physical or mental."

Many in the Norwich family have felt similarly, even if it might not have been perfectly articulated up until this point. Norwich Trustee Bill Lasky '69 spent much of his career in marketing and sales, eventually ending up as the CEO of multiple companies; today, he spends his time as a board member across several organizations as he lives in Florida. Unsurprisingly, he ended up finding another Norwich graduate in his community.

"I started talking to John Gatti, who I got to know," said Lasky. Gatti is a Trustee and graduate of the Class of 1986, described by Lasky as a "very brilliant guy" who had a successful career involving semi-professional football and an MIT post-graduate education. "We're sitting in my living room one night just talking about Norwich since we're both on the Board of Trustees," said Lasky. "I asked him, 'John, why did you go to Norwich?'" What should have been an easy question caused both to fumble their words. Somewhat confused that they didn't have a quick answer, they spent the rest

of the night discussing their backgrounds and what led them to Norwich. Lasky knew there was something special about Norwich, and he needed to find out what made it draw people in; he needed to explore Norwich's "secret sauce."

"After our little discussion at my house, I kept thinking about it," said Lasky.

During an after-hours meeting with trustees over cocktails, Lasky began his impromptu story. "I told them about John and I, how we realized we were two totally different people from different generations," he said. "We both went to Norwich, but we didn't have to go to Norwich."

Lasky said that when he was looking for a school to attend, his parents wanted him to learn to support himself and earn a strong foundation for life. Fairleigh Dickinson University was just around the corner from the New Jersey native, but at the time, it was a brand-new school. "It was more like a community college compared to today when it's a well-regarded university," he said. "My father told me if I went to Fairleigh Dickinson and lived at home that he would buy me a brand-new Jaguar XK-E. I love cars, and my father loved cars. Nobody had ever bought me one, and he offered to buy me the hottest and most beautiful car – but I went to Norwich." Something about the school drew him in. "I chose Norwich, and I didn't quit. I didn't drop out."

"Why did I go to Norwich versus Fairleigh Dickinson, or some other university? Why did our friend John come here? Why did Jack and Jill and everybody else come here?" he asked. "There is a DNA." Drawing upon his professional history, he recalled a time when a company he was with hired the University of Florida's dean of psychology as a consultant during the hiring process.

"He met with us and studied the company," said Lasky. The dean put together a test with the intention of profiling potential candidates for their fit. "It just so happens that I was starting to recruit and interview people, and they wanted me to use this tool," he said. "Now, I got scared. All of a sudden, I'm told I'm the one who is going to be implementing this. I raised my hand in the meeting and told the president of the company I was unsure." The response was signing Lasky up to take the test to learn how it works.

Lasky took the test, and the dean evaluated his results. "This guy who I'd never met before, who didn't know how I grew up or anything about me, told me so much about my family, my life, and my preferences from this test that it made me a believer. We used that tool to improve our retention of employees." The



Norwich University Trustee Bill Lasky '69

board members took his story to heart and set in motion the campaign to rejuvenate the University's presentation, leading to the creation of the "Secret Sauce Committee."

Retention rates are an important part of any university, and Norwich must retain students to produce the world's leaders. "We're rejuvenating the DNA in our souls," said Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff Danielle Pelczarski. "That's what

**"We loved the grit in the Norwich motto 'I Will Try.' We want that to be immediately felt and understood by someone who is new to the brand."**



lifts enrollment, retention, graduate rates, and alumni engagement; these are the four pillars of the secret sauce.” Luckily, with the help of Pelczarski and Norwich Trustee Dr. Isabelle Desjardins, University of Vermont Medical Center’s chief medical officer and an associate professor, the Board of Trustees was uniquely equipped to conquer the challenges ahead.

Pelczarski and Desjardins come from two different backgrounds but are both deeply connected with Norwich. On one hand, Pelczarski has extremely unique experience to draw from in both the corporate and military spheres. On the other, Desjardins is the mother of an alum and brings her valuable perspective as an objective outsider with a psychiatry background.

Understanding the combination of a student’s personality, character traits, and context in which they receive their education was key for Desjardins. “I thought it was very interesting to identify the commonality among this great alumni community and successful student body,” she said, adding that Norwich students are from a common thread that has to do with grit, curiosity, humility, acceptance of failure, and perseverance in the face of failure. “From an outsider’s observation, it’s really palpable when you’re meeting Norwich graduates from different generations that would otherwise be disparate in terms of their profile,” she said. “They are an eager and competitive bunch, and there is a generosity of spirit that transpires through the context of Norwich, transcending the students themselves. It’s a shared experience among the community.”

**“If Partridge was alive today, in addition to his vision of ‘well-rounded civilian-soldiers,’ I think he could describe our students as those who are willing to push themselves and lead others.”**



Combined with Pelczarski’s brand agency and military background, the seeds planted over drinks and stories were beginning to sprout. Thanks to her unique combination of experiences, she could see what others might have missed. “I talked with them and said, ‘Don’t you guys realize what the secret sauce is? It’s you. You’re the DNA.’”

Desjardins got involved with the Board of Trustees because of her son’s transformation at Norwich. “I was fascinated by the process by which he was transformed as a person, a student, and a leader,” she said. The rejuvenation of Norwich’s identity was the perfect time for her to examine things more closely. “I’ve been curious about the different elements of training, the context and the environment, and how that fits with the personality of the students at Norwich. I have a curiosity about human behavior in that sense.”

Though the pair had a solid foundation for the project, they knew they needed reinforcements for something of this size and scope. They would eventually bring on Brand-Ed Solutions, a brand marketing consultancy, led by Founder and Principal Sarah Stefaniuk (now Norwich University interim vice president of the Marketing and Communications Office). “Our mission is to adapt best-in-class brand strategies, processes, and tools to develop brands in sectors that wouldn’t otherwise think about branding like consumer product goods companies do; places like higher education and non-profits, for example,” she



said. “There is limitless opportunity to harness the methods of iconic brands, and Norwich University was a no-brainer.”

Stefaniuk knew that with an institution as storied as Norwich, the newly forged path ahead must resonate with the University’s mission and identity. “I knew the positioning of the brand would be rooted in Partridge, but I wasn’t sure what answers we’d come out with after the process,” she said. “The school today has the same goal as it did at its founding, but we need to articulate that for the citizens of the next several decades.”

“This is what the whole purpose of the brand initiative is clearly about,” said Pelczarski. “We might have lost our way a little bit and forgotten what our true roots are. This initiative helps convey our story to the people who want challenge and want to stretch themselves.” Many who come to Norwich are driven to go beyond their wildest dreams, whether it is finding success in the military, a three-letter-agency, or the private sector. “They have an idea and we’re polishing that stone a bit. I think Lasky, Gatti, and anyone else who has come to Norwich realized that this was the place to build that foundation.”

Lasky said that the input from highly qualified individuals who did not graduate from Norwich was key. “We sort of have unwritten bylaws on the board that we want a certain number of trustees who aren’t Norwich graduates,” he said. “We don’t want to be high fiving ourselves just because we went here. We want to be objective, and we need to have a good balance.”

After finding their balance through a “cross-pollination across campus,” according to Pelczarski, the “Norwich Together” project was officially started. “That’s basically the team of around 20 people who went through most of the year to get to

the brand positioning and logo identity,” she said. That team, made up of faculty, staff, the development team, and other stakeholders from across campus and beyond, would set to work finding the best way to tell Norwich’s story to the world.

One of the first steps in the process is known as “discovery.” As the name might suggest, this entails getting to know your stakeholders through things such as focus groups, surveys, and research. Stakeholders ranged in their familiarity and connection with Norwich. Some, like the cadets and civilian students in the focus groups, are fresh to Norwich and offered their fiery passions for the school. They are the “DNA”; the customers that Norwich must market to. Others, like Dana Professor Emeritus of History Gary Lord, Ph.D., could offer a deep and contextual knowledge of the school and its history.



Lifelong bonds are formed on The Hill as cadets conquer challenges together, becoming the best version of themselves.





One of the project's first responsibilities involved facilitating the focus groups, which were initiated by Stefaniuk and Brand-Ed Solutions to learn more about the "DNA" of both past, present, and future Norwich students. Though all around campus have strong feelings about the University, when put into words, you may end up with unexpected results. "In marketing, you always have an impression of what the brand is all about – but you're always proven wrong," said Stefaniuk. "The customer sets you straight."

By now, the seeds of change were much past sprouting and had taken root; the growing project needed additional support. Beardwood & Co., a branding

and design agency based in New York, was brought on in a supportive role at this point to see it all to fruition. "When they approached us with this brand project, we were more than happy to get involved," said Head of Strategy Courtney Berkery. "Our role was really to collaborate with Norwich on the brand strategy, positioning, personality, and tone."

A main responsibility of Beardwood & Co. revolved around helping in discovery, but more specifically, deciphering the hundreds of pages that were the result of all the research. Norwich, Brand-Ed Solutions, and Beardwood & Co. began to pore through the information gathered. "Beardwood & Co. really

helped distill this information and ran the brainstorming," said Stefaniuk. They led several work sessions with the Norwich Together Project Team to clarify the "DNA" and recurring Norwich themes. Their efforts to learn about what makes the Norwich family tick yielded plenty of results.

Persistent themes of grit, resilience, and accomplishment were continually brought up. Students arrived at Norwich University because they had big dreams, and many realized that once they set foot on The Hill that they held more potential within themselves than they had ever realized; it's not surprising that the "I Will Try" motto resonates with them so strongly. At Norwich, they could go beyond their perceived limits. Berkery said that she was impressed by "This craving for challenge that Norwich students have." Stefaniuk said that this resonates with the day-one mission of Alden Partridge. "If Partridge was alive today, in addition to his vision of 'well-rounded civilian-soldiers,' I think he could describe our students as those who are willing to push themselves and lead others courageously."

"This craving for challenge is so surprising, especially when you see it in a teenager," said Berkery. "That starts to make sense when you talk to incoming students. When we interviewed students who told us about past experiences, they would often tell us about why their first year was so difficult – then they would say, 'I wouldn't have it any other way.'"

While this insight seems obvious, it is also important to clarify what this means to Norwich. Simply put, Norwich customers with the "DNA" are looking for a university that will challenge them. They do not want an easy path. Whether they know it or not on a conscious



The annual Dog River Run gives Rooks an early taste of what Norwich University is all about.

level, they want an experience that will transform them into the best version of themselves and provide them with the life and leadership skills to meet and exceed their future goals. The act of trying ignites the process within themselves. This mentality was everywhere and defied demographic, socio-economic, and cultural descriptions.

Norwich can feel that same passion."

Finally, they had their positioning after Stefaniuk revised the winning concept "like a thousand times." Students who came to Norwich University wanted the best and then some; they wanted more for their life, their dreams, and their fellow citizens. They chose Norwich University

cadets," said Stefaniuk. She described the meetings on the way to approval as fiery and passionate, though not hostile. "There might have been raised voices and some pounding on tables, but no one was upset with anybody," she said. "We didn't see any anger, just passion for the school and its story."

**"When they approached us with this brand project, we were more than happy to get involved. Our role was really to collaborate with Norwich on the brand strategy, positioning, personality, and tone."**

After vetting the concepts, the Norwich Together Project team eventually identified the two that were most truly Norwich. The team took these two final concepts back to focus groups. "What I love about Norwich students is they're very honest and direct," said Berkery. "They told us when we had ideas that don't sound like Norwich, or if any university could tell them that." The brutal honesty made the marketing firm expand their playbook and search for new answers.

Their feedback was crucial to ensuring that the rejuvenation of Norwich University was true to the soul of the customer and the institution. "At the end of the day, this is about translating Norwich's history to something that's relevant to students today," she said. "We're not going to change what Norwich is about, but we could improve the way we talk about that history so people who don't know much about

because they are not afraid of challenges. If they had not realized their inner potential prior to coming to Northfield, Norwich would soon push them past their limits and open their eyes to the greatness within themselves through grit, self-discipline, and teamwork.

"Norwich is the place students come to be challenged so they can build courage, resilience, and strength to prepare them as humans and as leaders. In other words, when Norwich is at its best and doing what it does best, it is providing an incomparable, unique transformational experience that many high schoolers are craving," said Stefaniuk. "How many colleges do that? This is what makes Norwich extraordinary and special. This is what the world needs to know."

With a possible positioning in their back pocket, the team took their work to University officials. "It was important for us to get this right, especially for the

By now there was a light at the end of the tunnel. The ever-expanding team had spent the last third of their year fleshing out the University's rejuvenation, but Stefaniuk said that this is when the project's "rubber hit the road." Stefaniuk dove into the creation of the official brand strategy as the reins were passed to Beardwood & Co. to work up the new logo, which she described as "outstanding." A powerful logo communicates key messages about an organization – not that everyone knows them – but those ideas are there for people who want to figure them out and interpret what the logo means.

Berkery said that between the new logo and positioning, they made a concerted effort to balance the tradition and history of the institution. "We had a student take us through a tour of the Sullivan Museum and that was chock full of history," she said. "On the logo, we have the maroon harkening back to Norwich's history, but



we've done away with parts like the Bicentennial Stairs and Partridge's likeness." Additionally, they added the iconic sabers and founding year. "Commandant McCollough was even sending us pictures of the sabers in his office so we could get that curvature right. We developed hundreds of different cavalry sabers to get the right look."

The light at the end of the tunnel was rapidly growing brighter as they reached the final phase. "This includes the creative look and feel for all marketing materials and the rollout," said Stefaniuk, highlighting the importance of conveying both the message and spirit of Alden Partridge to today's driven students. "I always thought Partridge was a brand marketer before it was a thing," she said. "He identified an unmet need, found 'his customers,' and marketed by marching his students through towns in their uniforms." As usual, Capt. Partridge's spirit permeated the very fabric of Norwich University, down to the threads that formed a marketing plan.

The entire campaign is a distillation of the "secret sauce's" ingredients. "We want to be true to the history where folks know all of the details, but we want outsiders to feel what the Norwich community feels when they look at this for the first time," said Berkery. "We loved the grit in the Norwich motto 'I Will Try.' We want that to be immediately felt and understood by someone who is new to the brand."

Alongside the new logo and positioning, Norwich University's new brand promise states that the University will be: "A

transformational, educational journey that motivates you to achieve your goals and pushes you to reach even further – to Go Beyond what you thought possible – and prepares you for your career and leadership ambitions that set you apart from the rest."

Norwich University is prepared to ensure the success of the institution and its students for its next two hundred years. University leadership wants incoming students to know that while it may be uncomfortable at times, you will come out better than you started. "You'll go beyond what you thought was possible based on your previous life experiences," said Pelczarski. "We will make you physically fit and mentally sharp, arming you with a lifetime of skills to maintain yourself."

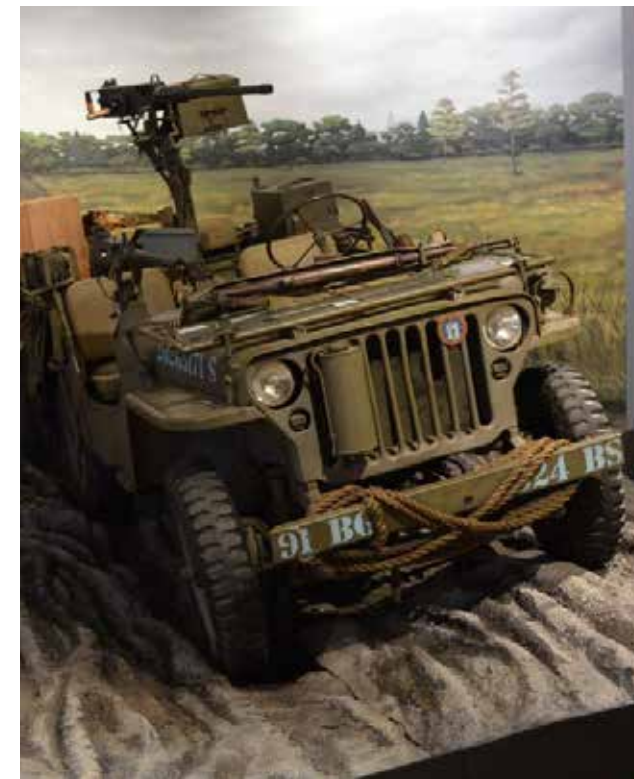
"The value of Norwich is not only academic," said Desjardins. "It's about life skills, being able to be self-reliant in your life moving forward. It's very difficult to create an environment that is guaranteed to foster that, but Norwich does it."

Pelczarski asks prospective students, "What are you looking for?" when she meets them for the first time. "We can talk about academic programs, about the Corps, student life and experiences, but at the end of the day I want them to know if there's one thing Norwich does, it gives you opportunity to grow in leadership," she said. "Leadership is kind of a buzzword, but having opportunities uniquely available at Norwich gives you a chance to develop a portfolio of leadership qualifications."

"We have something special happening here," said Lasky of the unique opportunities compared to other institutions. "We are founded on the basis of personhood, in the belief of the citizen-soldier and leading the leaders. Whether you're in the Corps of Cadets or you're a civilian, it becomes part of your fabric over your years at Norwich." Again, Lasky highlighted how not just the Corps has the opportunities, saying that "Just living here and being a part of the campus that has its backbone based in military disciplines instills principles across Norwich University. It's not about going to war or being in the Army. It's about leadership."

"We will give you the tools to go beyond your imagined limits and instill you with skills to last a lifetime," said Pelczarski. "Norwich University is the original senior military college, and we birthed the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. When you come to Vermont and set foot on The Hill, you choose leadership, excellence, and Alden Partridge's vision of the citizen-soldier. You choose Norwich University."

**"We will make you physically fit and mentally sharp, arming you with a lifetime of skills to maintain yourself."**



## BORN FOR WAR, READY FOR PEACE: The Jeep as War Vehicle and Cultural Icon

Through June 21, 2024

Norwich University's Sullivan Museum and History Center opens its newest exhibit, Born for War, Ready for Peace: The Jeep as War Vehicle and Cultural Icon, on Friday, September 1. It features a built environment by The Arcana Workshop of Barre and a restored World War II Jeep on loan from Paul Abare of Northfield.

The Jeep was developed during the early years of World War II in the United States fulfilling the need for a lightweight reconnaissance vehicle that could navigate rough terrain while also carrying needed supplies, weapons, and soldiers. Following the war, manufacturers adapted the rugged vehicle for civilians, sparking a unique culture around the vehicle that continues today.

Come see a World War II-era Jeep up close and learn how the Jeep came into existence and about the legacy it has left in our culture.

**Preparing Students to Go Beyond for 200+ Years**



Todd Coulard '22, Master of Science in Leadership

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[online.norwich.edu](https://online.norwich.edu)



NORWICH UNIVERSITY ONLINE

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# CLASS NOTES



Norwich University cadets in Mountain and Cold Weather train on Northfield's Paine Mountain in January of 1988.

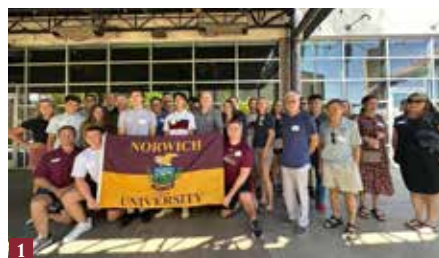
As you can see in the photo, the July 2023 Arizona Sendoff was well attended despite record breaking heat. A hardy, happy mix of alumni, new students, parents, and families turned out to support and celebrate the incoming class.

**1. July 2023 Arizona Sendoff**

**2020**

Maria Taylor-Perry (CGCS '20) will marry Rev. Reginold Ponder, Jr. of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, on February 24, 2024 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The happy couple met as high schoolers over 40 years ago. Rev. Ponder is a reporter and columnist for the Daily Advance Newspaper in Elizabeth City as well as the Perquimins Weekly of Hertford, North Carolina, and the Chowan Herald of Edenton, North Carolina, and serves as the pastor of Oak Grove United Methodist Church of Hertford, North

Carolina. He graduated from Louisburg College, North Carolina Wesleyan College, and Duke Divinity School. The couple will live in Elizabeth City.



**2019**

Katelyn Baumann '19 was married to Garret Tanner on September 17th in Griswold, Conn. Captain Baumann-Tanner is stationed at Yokota Air Base in Japan. Katelyn is the daughter of Brig. Gen. Kimberly (Jones) Baumann USAF '87 and Lt. Col. Philipp Baumann, ANRG (Ret.) '86.

**2018**

Robert Gendron '14 and four other alumni ran into each other at the MBA Veterans Career conference. MBA Veterans holds this conference for veterans attending the world's top-ranked universities.

**2. Jake Towse - IU Kelley; Will Mistretta - Carnegie Mellon; Mike Johnson - University of Michigan; Christian Cole - University of Rochester; and Rob Gendron UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School.**

**2018**

Griffin Spencer '18 was hired as director of marketing & communications at Rivier University. He is responsible for the internal marketing and communication functions that support enrollment at Rivier University and advance the institution.

**2013**

President Emeritus Rich Schneider met up with Rob Kumpf '13 when they attended the superintendent's change of command ceremony at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on May 26, 2023. Schneider, a retired rear admiral in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, serves on the Coast Guard Academy's board of trustees; and Kumpf, the director of training for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, was at the academy attending a leadership development course.

**3. President Emeritus Rich Schneider and Rob Kumpf '13**

On July 1, 2023, Vernon Gomes '13 was promoted to corporal in the Hampton Police Division. Vernon has served in the police division for eight years and has worked in the uniformed patrol and school resource units. Additionally, Vernon serves as a field training officer, use of force instructor, and sits on the policy development team. He more recently returned to patrol operations as a night shift supervisor.

**4. Vernon and his fiancé, Elena, at the promotion ceremony on July 21, 2023.**

Sarah (Clifton) Fleenor M'13 is now the associate director of the Citizen Leader Track (VPI Battalion) for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Sam Keenan '13 was admitted as an attorney in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts during a ceremony at Faneuil Hall in Boston on Nov. 14, 2023. Sam's practice will primarily focus on the regulation of investment advisers, broker-dealers, and capital markets.

**5. Sam Keenan with Mary Kate Fallon, his fiancée, after being called to the bar.**



**2012**

On April 13, 2023, Chris Kohn '12 and Emily Button Kohn '12 welcomed their third baby, Koa Ricky Kohn, into the world. Koa's two big sisters, Maverick and Lachlan, are the biggest helpers and love snuggling him. Their family of five currently resides in California while Chris is stationed at Camp Pendleton, but soon will be traveling to their next duty station in Okinawa, Japan.

**6. The Kohn Family**

**2010**

On October 8, 2023, alumni Andrew Frank '10 got married. In attendance were some of his Norwich classmates, Robert Burnham '10 Rebecca Burnham '12, Jon Swartz '10 and Stephen Grossi '10.

**7. Andrew Frank '10 and friends at his wedding.**

**2005**

Brent White enjoys running and the spirit it has fostered in his community. By joining with his friends and through the use of social media, he has raised money for causes in the Berkshires in Massachusetts. On Patriot's Day 2023, he joined the effort to raise money for Boston Children's Hospital at the 127th Boston Marathon. Through this experience, Brent formed a stronger bond with classmate with his classmate, Matt Rodman '05, whose son Nathaniel was an open-heart surgery patient at BCH.

**8. Brent White with his Miles for Miracle Patient Partner Nathaniel Rodman (son of Matt Rodman '05) at a Boston Children's Hospital event in 2023.**

**2003**

Jason Oliveira '03 has been promoted to 737 Captain at American Airlines based in Boston's Logan International Airport.

**2000**

Kellie Barhight was the first ever female Lieutenant appointed for the Stow, Mass. Police Department on September 8, 2023. There are currently only 13% of women in law enforcement nationwide and of that 13 percent about 9% make up the rank of lieutenant and above. Kellie is glad to have added to that number and will continue to push forward in mentoring future leaders in this profession.



## 1996

Colonel Ben Dawson '96, retired last summer from the U.S. Army after 27 years, most of which was spent deploying around the globe as part of various special operations task forces. Ben's last assignment was as the deputy commander for a U.S. Army special operations group at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Ben and his family have remained in the Northern Virginia area post-retirement.

## 1985

Mike Hourigan '85 has recently been promoted to Vice President, Customer Success, North America for Ellucian, a Blackstone/Vista Company. Mike will work with all higher education institutions that use the Banner or Colleague ERP products. Mike and his wife Tina continue to live in Northfield, Vermont.

## 1977

Members of the Class of 1977 came to Norwich for Rook Recognition. As the Guardian Class of the Class of 2027, they participated in the ceremony. Class Agent, Col. Tony Maida, USAF (Ret.), addressed the cadets. The group also had dinner together at Sarducci's in Montpelier with NU Alumni staff members Diane Scolaro and Ann Harvey.

**9. Left to right – Bob Cohen, Greg Curtis, Tim VanSplunder, Diane Scolaro, Beth Maida, Tony Maida, Ann Harvey, Andy Lowe, Jayne (Atwood) Lowe, and Sue (Gomez) Cohen, (Vermont College)**

## 1974 AND VERMONT COLLEGE 1972

Susan Mitchell retired from Vermont state government in 1996 after 30 years of service. Mitchell has been working as a paraeducator since. "I finally used my B.S. in Elementary Ed," says Mitchell. Mitchell says she is married and divorced, living in Middlesex, Vermont, with her dog, two cats, and horse—that lives nearby. She is in contact with Robin Bona, Nancy Valkevich, and Reenie Babine. "I can't believe 50 years is coming up, yikes!"



## 1971

Carlos Carbonell's latest publication, "A Foreign Student at Norwich University," is a reflection of his four-year experience as a foreign student from 1967 to 1971. Through this book, he aims to showcase how his time at Norwich University has greatly contributed to his success in a demanding world.

## 1970

Fifteen members of the Class of 1970 recently gathered in Reunion, Florida from Nov. 6-10 to attend the annual Frank Marino Gator Golf Tournament. Fun was had by all.

**10. Class of 1970 members in Reunion, FL**

## 1967

Classmates Bruce Wait '67 and Sanford Miller '67 got together last Columbus Day weekend at the Adirondack League Club outside of Old Forge, New York. Bruce also attended his 60th high school reunion from the Holland Patent N.Y. High School. Their trip included breakfast with some of Bruce's classmates at the Forestport Diner, which is famous for its donuts. He had not seen some of them since graduation.

**11. 1967 classmates Bruce Wait and Sanford Miller**

## 1953

On April 21, 2023, Harold L. Gilmore '53 Ph.D. was granted membership in The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution #226148 by descent from Jesse Barker, Sr. He, with his son Tod, were inducted into the Cape Cod Chapter Mass. Society by President J. David Bowie.

## MULTI—YEAR

Several local alums gathered in Northern New Jersey to enjoy the fall (L to R) Joey Mac Dixon '10, Kris Kisatsky '91-93, Matt LeFavre '11, Rob Colatarci '95, Michael Babyak '92, Dan Levitt '92, Ken Kisatsky '92.

**12. Northern New Jersey Gathering**

## PARTRIDGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP KEY

**Chairman's Six Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$10,000,000 or more

**Chairman's Five Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$8,000,000–\$9,999,999

**Chairman's Four Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$6,000,000–\$7,999,999

**Chairman's Three Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$4,000,000–\$5,999,999

**Chairman's Two Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$2,000,000–\$3,999,999

**Chairman's One Diamond Club**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$1,000,000–\$1,999,999

**Five-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$750,000–\$999,999

**Four-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$500,000–\$749,999

**Three-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$250,000–\$499,999

**Two-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$100,000–\$249,999

**One-Star General**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$50,000–\$99,999

**Lifetime Level**  
cumulative lifetime giving of \$20,000–\$49,999

**Annual Membership**  
fiscal year gift of \$1,000 or more

**1819 Circle Membership**  
planned or deferred gift to the university

**Garrison Associates Membership**  
consecutive annual giving in five-year increments

## PARTRIDGE SOCIETY

The mission of the Partridge Society is to encourage alumni, parents, and friends of Norwich University to help the University achieve its financial goals and to formally recognize those who do so.

The Partridge Society Board of Directors welcomes the following new and promoted Lifetime and 1819 Circle Members and acknowledges new levels achieved between May 1, 2023 and October 31, 2023.

**Chairman's One Diamond Club**  
(\$1,000,000 - \$1,999,999)

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas M. McCracken '70 & H'20

**Five-Star General Members**  
(\$750,000 - \$999,999)

Matthew & Teresa Andresen P'23

**Two-Star General Members**  
(\$100,000–\$249,999)

Steven J. Bergholtz '84

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher L. Budnick '86, P'20

Edward '79 & Susan Giannattasio

Chris '83 & Martha Kristian

Capt. & Mrs. Christopher C. Misner, USN (Ret) '90 & M'06

John Newton '61

Col. Charles Viall, USA (Ret.) '64 & Maureen Viall, SES

**One-Star General Members**  
(\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Col. & Mrs. Jay Carlson, USAF '81

Scott '85 & Mary Ellen Dow

Stephen '73 & Donna Lewkowicz

Walter '68 & Dianne Mischenko

Jim '74 & Wendy '74 Patterson P'10, P'14, P'14

Gunjan M. Shah '96

Mr. & Mrs. Willie Wright '93

**Lifetime Members**  
(\$20,000 - \$49,999)

Bruce Ashley '59

Jim Beyerl '75 & P'04

Josiah C. Boggs '16

Philip '63 & Marie Cacciola

David '77 & Helen Costa

Jeffrey D. Dick '94

Mr. & Mrs. York J. Doerr '63

Dennis '81 & Casandra Downey

Jeffrey & Marcia Haran '69

Michael Hourigan '85 & Tina Bohl

Peter A. Johnson '69

Robert M'10 & Molly King

Dr. Stephen Knych '82

Dr. C. Denny Lane '62 & Dr. Naoko Aoki

Rod '73 & Sybil Maxson, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur F. Norton '59

Eyal Shapira

Michael '87 & Kathleen Valenti

Gregory '83 & Susan Valloch

**1819 Circle Members**

Jon E. Fogg '68

Lauren Kollar



## ROLL OF HONOR

The following list reflects notifications of deceased Norwich family members received by the University from July 30, 2023 to December 1, 2023. Full obituaries, when available, can be viewed online at [alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries](http://alumni.norwich.edu/obituaries). To inform the University of the passing of a member of the Norwich family, please contact the Alumni Office at (802) 485-2100 or [inmemoriam@norwich.edu](mailto:inmemoriam@norwich.edu).

1948 Ellen Delano 9/1/2023 94 Vermont College	1971 Joseph R. Nestlerode 9/18/2023 73
1950 Robert D. Alden 8/4/2023 94	1972 John B. Canale 10/5/2023 73
1950 Bradford T. Greason 10/27/2023 99	1974 Ann Parkinson 9/12/2023 69 Vermont College
1950 Robert J. Kennedy 11/22/2023 95	1976 Curtis S. Krause 4/24/2023 69
1951 Robert M. Kendrick 9/9/2023 94	1976 Thomas F. McNamara 8/9/2023 69
1952 Boothe B. Blakeman 8/8/2023 93	1977 Dean M. Schmelter 8/25/2023 68
1953 Thomas A. Tullar 10/30/2023 92	1978 Henry C. Cataldo 11/14/2023 66
1955 Harry M. Bartlett 10/26/2023 90	1979 Lori J. Kasabian 8/16/2023 64 Vermont College
1955 Edward G. Generous 10/26/2023 90	1979 Leonard Kendall 11/21/2023 70
1955 Suzanne C. Jones 10/7/2023 89 Vermont College	1981 Randy S. Hough 8/19/2023 65
1955 Anthony U. Donatelli 9/18/2023 90	1982 Therese M. Baker 11/19/2023 62 Vermont College
1955 Robert G. Trockels 10/30/2023 90	1984 Robert D. Laclair 8/28/2023 70
1957 David J. Hartnett 08/01/23 87	1984 Morris E. Ragus 10/10/2023 87 Vermont College
1957 Alfred C. Banks 10/23/2023 88	1984 Antonio W. Ramos 10/15/2023 62
1959 Robert C. Morrison 7/17/2023 86	1987 William G. Cole 8/19/2023 89
1959 William A. Black 10/2/2023 88	1987 Linda Cooper 10/22/2023 84
1960 Victor L. Kim 10/1/2023 86	1987 Sandra M. Ward 10/27/2023 77 Vermont College
1960 Leonard L. Ayers 11/21/2023 85	1988 Veronique A. LaVault Luzzi 9/17/2023 56
1960 John H. Daly 11/25/2023 85	1988 Timothy S. McDowell 11/7/2023 59
1961 Robert D. Jakob 9/22/2023 85	1990 John A. Collins 7/26/2023 85 " father of John P. Collins, '90"
1961 Philip K. McCarthy 9/22/2023 84	1993 Mary Barber 8/31/2023 76
1961 Richard P. Gaviorno 10/21/2023 85	1993 Joseph Resnick 10/1/2023 70 Vermont College
1962 Donald J. Shakour 9/8/2023 82	1994 Jason D. Hall 9/9/2023 52
1962 Charles L. Shutz 8/20/2023 83	1996 Mary C. Linares 9/23/2023 78
1962 Richard L. Atkins 7/2/2023 83	1997 Leslie H. Edgerton 8/31/2023 80 Masters Degree
1962 James S. Mooradian 10/23/2023 82	1997 Rachel M. Geoffroy 10/5/2023 74
1963 John E. O'Neil 9/27/2023 81	1999 Stephen L. York 8/13/2023 69
1963 Carol C. Hattaway 11/18/2023 80 Vermont College	2008 Crystal L. Hoppes 8/15/2023 41 Masters Degree
1965 Barrett G. Block 10/15/2023 82	2017 Matthew Andrews 10/26/2023 35 Masters Degree
1966 John G. Coolidge 11/14/2023 80	Joanne H. Patton 9/24/2023 92 Friend, widow of George S. Patton, former trustee
1967 Howard J. Murphy 9/28/2023 79	Lloyd E. Klinger 9/13/2023 95 Former faculty member
1967 James L. Vander Eyk 9/2/2023 79	Ugur Yucelt 10/28/2023 85 Former faculty member
1967 Curtis A. Darling 9/14/2023 78	Kimberly S. Dexter 10/26/2023 54 Former staff member
1969 Christine A. Ordway 9/27/2023 74 Vermont College	Barbara E. Hastings 9/13/2023 94 Former staff member
1970 Francis G. Pelkey 10/12/2023 76	Linda S. LaRose 11/8/2023 70 Former staff member
1970 Lorraine Daniels 11/8/2023 86 Vermont College	

# IRA Rollover to Gift Annuity Helping You Increase Your Income and Giving

## What Is a Charitable Gift Annuity and How Does it Work?

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a contract between you and Norwich — in exchange for your charitable gift, we agree to pay you a fixed income for your lifetime. Upon your passing, the annuity ceases and the remaining principal is used to further our mission.

A CGA is a simple written agreement signed by you and our organization. Once you contribute cash from your IRA, the CGA begins to make quarterly payments to you for your lifetime. The payment rate is based on your age to your nearest birthday.

## Benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity

- Lifetime income and financial security
- Attractive payment rates
- Opportunity to support our work

## What the Security 2.0 Act Provides

- Once-in-a-lifetime tax-free distribution from your IRA for a gift annuity
- Maximum allowable distribution amount of \$50,000 in 2024
- Lifetime income payments of 5% or greater
- Lowers your taxable estate



## Other Considerations

- Charitable gift annuities may be set up to pay income to you or your spouse.
- Under the act's provisions, you must be 70½ or older to take advantage of this opportunity.
- A charitable gift annuity is a general obligation of our organization and is backed by all of our assets.



NORWICH  
UNIVERSITY



To learn more about this type of gift, please call Megann O'Malley, Director of Planned Giving, at (802) 485-2282, or email at [Momalley@norwich.edu](mailto:Momalley@norwich.edu).

[Norwichgiftplans.org](http://Norwichgiftplans.org)





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