



## USNA Alumni Association and Foundation 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Our Fallen Heroes Event – “Know Before You Go” Information Packet

To our Gold Star Families and Friends, Escorts, USNA Leaders, Run To Honor Officers, and Volunteer Staff,

On behalf of [President and CEO Jeff Webb '95](#), thank you for joining the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation for our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Honor Our Fallen Heroes event on Saturday, November 16, 2024, honoring and celebrating those Naval Academy alumni killed in the service of their country.

Jeff describes the weekend in these words:

*“Our Honor Our Fallen Heroes program is one of the most important events on our annual calendar. Those alumni who have made the ultimate sacrifice are the very models of service, and I see it as my personal duty as president and CEO to ensure their lives and their sacrifice remain in our collective memory, the north star that unites us all as we carry on in service to our alma mater and to each other.”*

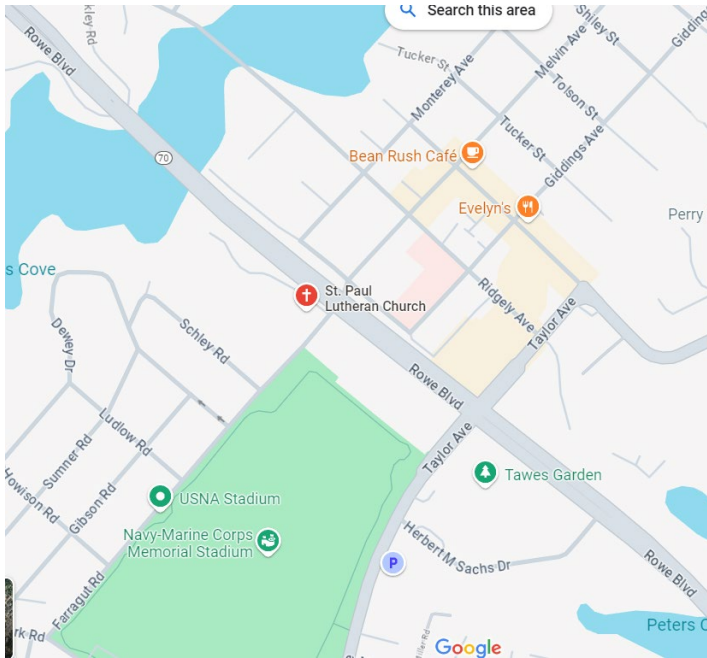
[Eric ‘Kap’ Kapitulik '95](#) is our featured speaker this year, himself an alumnus and founder and CEO of [The Program](#). He is honored to help mark the occasion – we know you will enjoy meeting Kap at some point in the day.

As you prepare for next Saturday, we welcome you to use our [Honor Our Fallen Heroes webpage](#) as an information resource. Included on the page:

- [Schedule of Events](#)
- [List of 2024 Fallen Heroes](#)
- [Memorial Service Program](#)
- [Parking placard](#)

### Arrival, Parking, and Transportation to the Yard and Stadium

**Arrival and Parking.** All guests including escorts should plan to park this year at [St. Paul’s Lutheran Church](#), 31 Rowe Blvd Annapolis, corner of Rowe Blvd and Farragut Rd, adjacent to the Navy-Marine Corps stadium. Plan to arrive at the church parking lot between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. Saturday. Please print the parking placard attached to this email and place on your dash – parking attendants will allow you in the lot with the placard. **Please do not plan to park at the Fluegel Alumni Center – the Center is closed for private events throughout the day.**



**Transportation to and from the memorial ceremony at Dahlgren Hall** is provided via complimentary shuttle bus from the church parking lot starting at 8:15 a.m. The shuttle will drop guests at the Submarine Monument on the Yard near Bancroft Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Wing, and midshipman ushers will show guests into the Class of '53 Deck in Dahlgren Hall for the ceremony.

**Limited handicap parking** for those who have a handicap placard and need assistance for the ceremony is available near Dahlgren Hall on the Yard. **If you plan to take advantage of this service, please contact [Gwenn Dennis](#) by next Tuesday 12 November so that we can arrange special access to the Yard for you and your vehicle.** Please plan to arrive at the Naval Academy by 8:30 a.m. so that we can ensure you reach Dahlgren Hall in time for the ceremony at 9 a.m.

**Transportation from the ceremony to the stadium for the football game** is provided via complimentary shuttle bus departing the Submarine Monument promptly at 9:45 a.m. immediately following the memorial service.

**If you do not attend the memorial ceremony**, please plan to arrive at the church parking lot no later than 9:45 a.m. You can park in the church parking lot, then make the short walk to the tailgate luncheon in the N-Star Room, Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

### **Escorts/Ushers**

We have assigned an escort for each of our gold star families attending the event. These alumni or midshipmen volunteers will help ensure our gold star families have everything they need to make the day memorable and comfortable. Families can expect to meet their escorts at the Submarine Monument if they are attending the ceremony, or at the N-Star room at the stadium if they are not



attending the ceremony. Special thanks to these alumni volunteers, and to the [Midshipman Action Group](#), for their help as escorts and as ushers.

### **What to Bring and Wear**

Please bring a government-issued ID, required to access the Yard for the memorial ceremony. Also, very important for your planning – Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium has implemented a [clear bag policy](#) – please read carefully and plan accordingly. Attire for the memorial ceremony, luncheon and game is ‘gameday casual’ – we encourage Navy spirit gear throughout the day. You are welcome to dress more formally for the ceremony if you wish. There are bathrooms at the luncheon venue should you desire to change into more comfortable clothes for the game.

### **Memorial Ceremony**

Find [here](#) our program for the ceremony at the Class of ’53 Deck in Dahlgren Hall. Our service is typically held in [Memorial Hall](#), but it is closed this year for renovation. The 45-minute ceremony honors the memory and sacrifice of the 50 fallen heroes whose families and friends are attending the event this year, featuring remarks from the Alumni Association EVP for Engagement and Communications [TJ Grady ’96](#), [VADM Yvette Davids ’89](#), the USNA Superintendent, and guest speaker [Eric Kapitulik ’95](#). The ceremony concludes with a reading of the names of our fallen heroes by [Steve Swift ’87](#), representing the [Run To Honor Shared Interest Group](#).

### **Tailgate Luncheon**

Lunch is served for guests at 10 a.m. in a tailgate-style setting in the N-Star Room at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. There will be a short speaking program led by TJ Grady around 10:30 a.m. We will begin escorting guests to their seats in the stadium around 11:20 a.m.



### Virtual Memorial Hall

We are preparing special access to [Virtual Memorial Hall](#) through your mobile devices while you are in the N-Star Room for lunch. Guests will have access to complimentary guest WiFi and Virtual Memorial Hall via QR codes on digital displays in the N-Star Room – please be sure you have charged cell phones or devices to take full advantage of that experience.

### Football E-Tickets and Access to Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

**\*IMPORTANT\*** Navy Football has moved to electronic (e)-ticketing. Tickets to the game will be provided electronically ONLY, and the gate attendants at the stadium will only accept e-tickets for entry. Any guest planning to show e-tickets to the gate attendant at the stadium must first download the free Navy Sports app to their mobile device using [THESE INSTRUCTIONS](#), or simply go into your app store, search “Navy Athletics” and download the app. Once the app is loaded, that mobile device is now ready to accept transfer of electronic tickets. If you are the person who registered your family/group for game tickets, we ask that you download this app as soon as you can.

In the next few days, the person who registered their group/family for the game will receive from [gwenn.dennis@usna.com](mailto:gwenn.dennis@usna.com) an email or text requesting they accept a ticket transfer from Gwenn Dennis. We request you acknowledge receipt of that email or text from Gwenn.

That guest is then able to electronically transfer tickets to the other members of their group/family, or show the group of electronic tickets to the attendant at the gate for those other guests physically



present with you. **We strongly recommend you accomplish the ticket transfer for your whole group/family before you travel to Annapolis**, so that any issues involving the transfer of tickets can be resolved in advance.

### **Moment of Silence Tribute Just Before and During the Game**

There are two moments of silence planned in the stadium to honor our fallen heroes. The first will occur just prior to the national anthem, after the Brigade is in place on the field. The second will occur at some point in the first half, during a TV time out. When the second moment of silence occurs, we request those gold star family members and friends in attendance to stand at their seats and wave small American flags (which we will provide), so that you too can be recognized and honored by the crowd. At the same time, we will scroll the names of our fallen alumni, whose families are represented among our guests, on the stadium video boards in order of class year.

### **Return to St. Paul's Parking Lot and Departure**

Guests are requested to make their own way back to their cars in the St. Paul's church parking lot after the game. Escorts have been asked to remain with their families until the end of the game, at the discretion of the families.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1) May guests attend the luncheon only, and not the memorial ceremony?

Yes. If you are NOT planning to attend the memorial ceremony, we ask that you arrive at the N-Star Room between 10 and 10:30 a.m. for the tailgate luncheon. Use Gate D on the Blue side of the stadium for entrance – volunteers will be there to help with access to the N-Star room. **Guests cannot access the N-Star Room before 10 a.m.**

- 2) Are guests provided parking at the stadium?

No. Unless you have your own parking pass for the game, guests are expected to park at the St. Paul's church parking lot – parking is complimentary at the church with a placard.

Gwenn Dennis, Isaac Phillips, and I are at your service for questions, concerns, and feedback. Our mission is to make this a day worthy of the memory and service of our fallen heroes, and an unforgettable experience for you and your families.

Go Navy, and God bless our fallen heroes.

Respectfully,

Wes Huey '87  
Honor Our Fallen Heroes Program Manager