

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



March 2024

Edited by: MIDN Nicholas De Fina and MIDN Ty Majam



Veterans Dinner

By: MIDN De Fina & MIDN Majam

On the 19th of March, the University of Southern California hosted its fifteenth annual Veterans dinner. Our University's veterans, active duties, reservists, Midshipmen and Cadets were all celebrated here in a wonderful evening put on by the school.

The evening began with a cocktail hour, allowing ROTC midshipmen, cadets and veterans to socialize while enjoying the benefits of the Bonaventure open bar and catering. Veterans would ask about the aspirations of our midshipmen while, in turn, our midshipmen would learn about the experiences of veterans ranging from Vietnam to Iraq. Upon the conclusion of the ceremony's final preparations, guests moved inside to begin dining-in customs.

The evening was filled with ceremonies and traditions which our midshipmen assisted in. Examples included the color guard ceremony, where MIDN 3/C Park and MIDN 4/C Miller presented our branches' flags, the presentation of the POW/MIA table, where MIDN 1/C Harrison and 4/C De Fina honorably guided our guests through the tables' symbols and finally how MIDN 4/C Xie assisted in the ceremony "Parading of the Beef."

Continues on Page 2

Continued from page 1



MIDN C. Scott and K. Scott with President Folt

All of the guests had the privilege of listening to and learning from M'Lis Ward, former USC Air Force ROTC student and Women's Basketball player who now serves as Captain flight evaluator for United Airlines. In her speech, she entailed her past experiences with the direction of inspiring our midshipmen to continue to challenge themselves, remembering always that perseverance will make reaching their goals much more rewarding. Her speech also served to remind them that hard work is the reason why they have this opportunity to serve, and for this reason, they can bring a certain level of confidence when striving for success.

Upon the night's end, Dean of Religious Life, Varun Soni closed out the dinner in prayer and left all to look back on those who served, and those to come.

Los Angeles Marathon

By: MIDN Majam

The morning of the 17th was stirring with tense, competitive determination as several of our midshipmen took part in the LA Marathon. MIDN 2/C Schweizer, Villena, Herrington, Paradis, and MIDN 4/C McKelvey all stepped forward to test the limits of their endurance. Their efforts and training proved to be fruitful as all of these midshipmen are proud to say that they finished the Los Angeles Marathon. Below are some pictures of the marathon.



MIDN Paradis, Hebert, Mckevley and Schweizer



MIDN Paradis in the final stretch of the LA Marathon.

Midshipmen on Break

By: MIDN De Fina

The Trojan Battalion Midshipmen took advantage of their well-deserved Spring Break this month, from adventurous travels to moments of relaxation. Below are just a few accounts of what we got up to.



MIDN Piper, Addington, Cao, Cheung, and Majam
at their Nuclear Submarine interviews
Washington D.C.



MIDN O'Brien, Ruiz and Merone at
the Pyramid of the Moon
San Martín de las Pirámides, Mexico.



MIDN K. Scott, C. Scott, De Fina and
their friend Greg.
Grand Canyon, Arizona



MIDN K. Scott, C. Scott, and De Fina
begin their decent
**Mt. San Jacinto, San Jacinto
Mountain Range, California**



MIDN C. Scott and K. Scott taking a break
Humphreys Peak, Flagstaff, Arizona

Midshipman of the Month

By: MIDN Nicholas De Fina

MARCH

The Battalion is proud to announce that for the first time in the 2023-2024 school year, a 4/C student has claimed the honor of Midshipman of the Month. That Midshipman, Ryan Tran, is no ordinary 4/C, he is by far one of the most devoted students to our program and cause. Committing countless hours as the drill team leader to teach OCS-bound Midshipmen, taking exuberant photographs of the Battalion's spirited activities, and taking charge of ceremony coordination like our University's very own Veterans Dinner, it is clear why MIDN Tran has been selected as March's Midshipman of the Month.

MIDN Tran hails from the sunny state of Arizona where he had fostered his love for service and particularly, his interest in drill and aviation. In high school, MIDN Tran was a member of the Marine JROTC program and held the titles of Drill Master, Public Affairs Officer, and Merchandise Officer, all roles he would gain indelible experience from and apply in the Battalion today. The dedication he displays to drill reflects greatly within the unit as each week he assures incoming OCS Marine Option students are trained in leading drill with lessons each Tuesday evening. His commitment to excellence in this field resonates throughout the unit, inspiring his peers to strive for the highest standards.

With the aspirations of earning his pilots commission in the years to come, MIDN Tran attended the U.S. Navy's Summer Flight Academy in Delaware and continues to pursue his private pilot's license.



Among his many achievements, MIDN Tran's leadership in coordinating the University's Veterans Dinner ceremonies stands out prominently. He invested significant time and effort into selecting and training his fellow Midshipmen, ensuring flawless execution of operations throughout the event. From the Color Guard presentation to the solemn POW/MIA ceremony, MIDN Tran's meticulous attention to detail ensured the success and highest respect of the evening.

MIDN Tran's exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication to details, and outstanding contributions to our Battalion make him a deserving recipient of the Midshipman of the Month award for March. His commitment to excellence in all endeavors reflects the core values upheld by the Trojan Battalion, and we look forward to witnessing his continued growth and success. Congratulations, MIDN Tran, on this well-deserved recognition. The unit truly would not be the same without you. Congratulations Midshipman of the Month!



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NROTC@usc.edu



213-740-2663