



Good morning, Key People & Organizations!

11 March 2016

The purpose of this email is to provide you with an update on the status of the “Our Community Salutes” event and “solicit” for volunteers. This recognition ceremony for our young men and women entering the US Armed Services after graduation is scheduled for Saturday, April 30 from 10 AM to 12 PM at Lane Auditorium.

According to our Recruiters, we are looking at approximately 80 young men and women that will take the Oath of Enlistment for the various uniformed services that day. The Recruiters are all standing by and I expect to get the names at the end of this month.

We will also be awarding The General Colin L. Powell Service Award to at least one local high school educator who best supports young adults desiring to serve in the US Armed Forces following graduation. The nominations are due to me the end of this week.

I am pleased to report that Congressman Robert Hurt has confirmed as our Civilian Keynote Speaker. Our Military Keynote is Brigadier General (Ret) Terry Djuric, USAF. Also assisting on the stage will be Captain Mark Black, USN, CW3 Craig Hartburg, USMC.

I am very excited to report that our Master of Ceremonies will be Tara Wheeler, News Anchor at NewsPlex. She is both a former Miss Virginia (2008) AND she was a USAF Cadet at Penn State.

And as if that isn't the best news ever, we will also be entertained by the Albemarle High School Jazz Ensemble. This exemplary high school band will be performing at the Savannah Music Festival at the end of March. I think it is awesome that we have a local high school band members recognizing their fellow class mates at our event.

There is more to the event but enough shared already. You get the drift. We are going to have a fabulous event.

After the ceremony we will have beverages for all attendees and lunch for the recruiters, the recruits and their families.

We have a Facebook page at Our Community Salutes of Greater Charlottesville but it is not yet populated. Please “like” it.

## ***Our Community Salutes***

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So, what remains in the planning process? We need volunteers! I have attached a list of volunteer needs and ask that you reach out to your organizations (or yourself!) and recruit some volunteers for our event. Normally, an ***Our Community Salutes*** event has an organization serving as its proponent, be it a Blue Star Mother Chapter or an VSO or a Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development group. This first one is effectively being planned and executed by a handful of people and we need your help.

Please report back to me as soon as possible with volunteer names and contact information. I would like to have my volunteers locked in by early April. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you,

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