

# THE NEW STANDARD

2022-2023 and beyond...



AFBA is proud to support  
NGAMS and its members.



Group Term life insurance coverage is available with no combat or terrorism exclusions through the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) program, underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company.

Contact the National Guard Association of Mississippi at [www.NGAMS.org](http://www.NGAMS.org) or (601) 354-7555 to learn more.

U.S. Army Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Dennis.

Member death benefits provided by AFBA are underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company (a Lincoln, NE company) with an administrative office at 909 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. This member benefit is offered only to its National Guard Association members in the state of Mississippi.

Policy forms: LT050197(REV); GNGPOLICY-MS-R413; GNG-060103

NGAMS Standard MagR0321



# The STANDARD

As our world changes so does our Mississippi National Guard. As we stated in last year's edition of the Standard this generation of Service member no longer serves one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. Previously a "summer camp" in Germany or Korea was a once in a career trip. Now members of the Mississippi National Guard routinely deploy overseas and called to serve within the state and nation multiple times. There is no longer a time that our Service members are not readily assessable through electronic communication. As the pace of service increases our Service members need an anchor to provide stability and connect members of the Mississippi National Guard to the resources they need. The National Guard Association of Mississippi is that anchor.

The National Guard Association of Mississippi continues to add more online resources at [www.ngams.org](http://www.ngams.org). Let the NGAMS Standard be your guide to our online services and additional resource for information on both our programs as well as the companies that provide you the ability to better serve our state and nation. We are very excited to provide these services to you and look forward to continuing to set the Standard.





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The  
STANDARD

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# THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI

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Jackson, MS 39201

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

For the most up to date information please follow us on these social media sites:

Facebook/National Guard Association of Mississippi

Twitter @TNGAMS

Instagram @nationalguardassociationofms

## WEB SITE:

[www.ngams.org](http://www.ngams.org)



*Pictured above is the War Memorial Building  
120 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39201*

# NEVER PAY STATE OR NATIONAL DUES AGAIN!

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## NGAMS IS OFFERING NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS.

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The NGAUS Board of Directors created a new form of Active Life Membership called a Digital Life Member. Obviously that has created a lot of questions. First, the only difference in an Active Life Membership and a Digital Life Membership is a Digital Life Member does not get a metal Active Life Membership card and does not get a paper copy of the NGAUS magazine each month. However they still get an electronic copy of the magazine. Otherwise the Digital Life Membership counts just the same as an Active Life Membership.

This new Digital Life Membership is only available on a trial basis and will expire in four years unless extended by the NGAUS Board of Directors. The cost of a Digital Life Membership is \$500. We are offering a special price for the Digital Life Membership through May 15, 2022. If you pay in one lump sum then the cost is \$375. In the alternative you can make five payments of \$100 for a total cost of \$500.

As always the Active and Digital Life Membership covers the National Guard Association of the United States and the National Guard Association of Mississippi for the rest of your active and retired life!

Annual membership rates for NGAMS and NGAUS have not changed since the early 1990s. However last year NGAUS voted to increase annual rates. As a result here are the combined NGAMS and NGAUS rates for the various ranks:

WO1- \$45 per year

CW2- \$50 per year

CW3- \$55 per year

CW4- \$100 per year

CW5- \$105 per year

2LT- \$45 per year

1LT- \$50 per year

CPT- \$55 per year

MAJ- \$100 per year

LTC- \$105 per year

COL- \$110 per year

Then, to keep the group life insurance and to participate in the association, there is a one time retired life membership fee of \$150.



For the sake of this example let's make a very conservative 26 year estimate that an individual will serve as a 2LT for 3 years, 1LT for 3 years, CPT for 5 years, MAJ for 5 years, LTC for 5 years and COL for 5 years. For a warrant officer career let's make a conservative 16 year estimate that the service time for a warrant officer is WO1 for 2 years, CW2 for 4 years, CW3 for 5 years and CW4 for 5 years. However most officers and warrant officers serve even longer than each of these estimates.

That means under the previous rates, conservatively, that a warrant officer will spend over a 16 year span \$1,010 and an officer over a 26 year span will spend \$2,347 in NGAMS/NGAUS dues. However within the same timeframe and under the new dues a warrant officer would spend \$1,065 and an officer would spend \$3,200. For longer careers, these numbers only increase. That is why one of the life memberships make so much financial sense.

Visit the One Time Payment (\$375) Active Life Membership or Five Payments (\$500 total) Active Life Membership on this website and you can be signed up and paid in less than five minutes.

Call us at 601-354-7555

Visit us at 120 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201

# **NEVER WORRY ABOUT DUES AGAIN! JOIN NOW!**

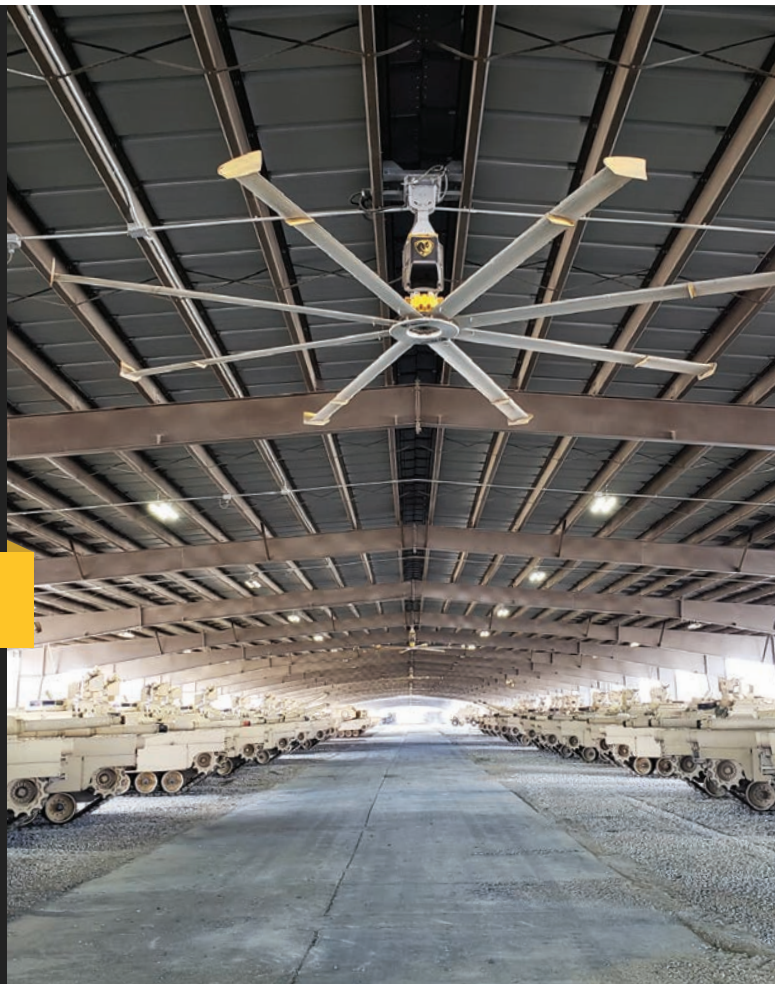
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# 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

THE  
NGAMS

## **ADS, INC. \***

Russell Thompson  
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Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

ADS, Inc. is a defense contractor that provides equipment, procurement, logistics, and supply chain solutions. By collaborating with the best suppliers in the industry, we can offer our customers high-quality products, shorter lead times, lower costs, and increased capability.

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## **AFBA/5 STAR LIFE INSURANCE \*\*\***

1SG (Ret) Marvin Wells, Insurance  
Sales Representative  
Tammy Graves, Insurance Manager  
601-354-7555

mwells@ngams.org  
tgraves@ngams.org  
P. O. Box 627  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
www.ngams.org

The Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) is a not-for-profit association established in 1947 to promote the general welfare and economic interests of military families during war and peace. Over time, we have expanded membership eligibility to also serve federal government employees and contractors, as well as first responders – law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Today, we serve more than 600,000 members protected by over \$39B of survivor benefits. More than \$1.9B of survivor benefits have been paid to the families of AFBA members since our founding. Survivor benefits are funded by life insurance underwritten by AFBA affiliate, 5Star Life Insurance Company, a Nebraska company. AFBA - Always Ready, Always There for the National Guard.

## **AIRBUS US \*\*\***

Earl Walker  
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1782 Airport Road  
Columbus, Mississippi 39701

Airbus US is a division of Airbus, a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. Airbus' mission is to provide the most efficient civil and military helicopter solutions to its customers who serve, protect, save lives and safely carry passengers in highly demanding environments.

## **AM GENERAL \*\***

Douglas Burnett  
904-703-5058  
dburnett@bellsouth.net  
291 Sophia Terrace  
St. Augustine, Florida 32095

AM General designs, engineers, manufactures, and supports tactical vehicles for military customers having produced more than 300,000 vehicles in over 70 countries. AM General products have deployed around the globe with our National Guard partners





The background of the entire advertisement is a close-up photograph of an American flag. The flag is draped over a dark, textured wooden surface. The blue field with white stars is visible on the left side, while the red and white stripes are on the right. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the fabric and the wood.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Heritage

## CREDIT

Over the last twenty years First Heritage Credit has proudly served the financial needs of its clients throughout the state of Mississippi, as well as the surrounding states of Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina and Tennessee. We are proud to be Patriot Level Patriot Partners with the Mississippi National Guard, and enjoy serving our communities through our 35 Mississippi branches.

We are proud to support the Mississippi National Guard, and enjoy giving back to those who freely give so much for us.

Visit [www.1stheritagecredit.com](http://www.1stheritagecredit.com)



in peacetime and in war. With unmatched durability, our soldiers and airmen have depended on the Humvee in harsh and demanding environments. We will continue to be there for them on future battlefields with the cutting-edge technology required to win.

### **AMERICAN MILITARY UNIVERSITY \***

Michael "Mik" Williams  
803-528-3077  
mwilliams@apus.edu  
111 West Congress Steet  
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414  
www.amu.apus.edu

AMU, the #1 provider of education to the military, offers affordable, quality undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates through 100% online classes that start monthly and run for 8 or 16 weeks. American Military University, a part of the American Public University System and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Stop by our booth today to learn more about our 200+ career-relevant online degree, certificate, and credentialing programs, or visit us at [www.amu.apus.edu](http://www.amu.apus.edu).

### **ATMOS ENERGY \*\***

Bobby Morgan  
robert.morgan@atmosenergy.com  
www.atmosenergy.com  
Atmos Energy has partnered with local veteran and military organizations and

nonprofits that connect job-seeking veterans, active-duty military, and their spouses to Atmos Energy career opportunities. In addition, Atmos Energy team members have served as mentors in local veteran and military mentorship programs to support their transition to the civilian workforce, provide coaching on vital employment search techniques, and advise on military-to-civilian cultural differences. "Our employees are our most valuable asset and a true difference-maker for us," said Matt Robbins, Atmos Energy senior vice president of human resources. "We partner with local organizations that share our appreciation of the military community to identify, recruit, and hire veteran and military candidates. Our company is a place where people with diverse backgrounds join together and strive to create a great future. Investing in our people is vital to our success and also helps us best reflect and serve the communities where we live, work, and play."

### **BAE SYSTEMS, INC. \***

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941 Fairview Park Dr. 12th Floor  
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BAE Systems, Inc. is a leading provider of tracked and wheeled armored combat vehicles, naval

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Senior Vice President/ Trust Officer  
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BancorpSouth Bank  
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In 1876, in the back of a hardware store in Verona, Mississippi, a new approach to banking was born – an approach built on longevity and the principle that neighbors should help neighbors. It was based on the idea that to better serve a customer is to understand what is right for them. We've come a long way since then, but our commitment to being Right Where You Are for what matters most in your life is still the same.

### **BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY**

Michael Jordan  
601-709-0962 (office)

## **WINDHAM & LACEY, PLLC**

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219 N. Jackson Street • P.O. Box 759  
Crystal Springs, MS 39059  
601.892.4001 • Fax 601.892.5978



The Mississippi Armed Forces Museum honors the servicemen and women of all branches from Mississippi and others who received training in Mississippi during times of war. The Museum's exhibits tell the personal stories of American heroes, and serve to educate future generations about the price paid for freedom and prosperity.

The mission of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, exhibit, and hold in public trust for the exclusive benefit of the people, significant historical property related to the history of the State of Mississippi and its contributions to the Armed Forces of the United States from the early 19th Century to the present.

# MISSISSIPPI ARMED★FORCES MUSEUM

CAMP SHELBY

[www.armedforcesmuseum.us](http://www.armedforcesmuseum.us)

mjordan@belhaven.edu  
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US Manufacture of premium tactical knives. When your life depends on it, it has to be a Benchmade.

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John Ladik  
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[www.bigassfans.com](http://www.bigassfans.com)

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each new application, our engineers set out to design the perfect solution to meet our customers' needs. Our dedication to innovation has led us to develop the industry's first silent motor technology and smart fan controls and automation, and consistently bring the best quality cooling products to market with added Clean Air System technologies proven by science and backed by experts to create safer, cleaner, healthier spaces.

### **BOEING COMPANY**

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(cell)  
[catherine.i.anthony@boeing.com](mailto:catherine.i.anthony@boeing.com)  
P. O. Box 16858 MC P10-08  
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CONFERENCE  
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2022

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## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS 2022

as well as our entire Mississippi Molson Coors network is a great honor and privilege.

### CAPITAL ORTHO \*

Jeff Beford  
601-987-8200 (office)  
info@capitalorthosports.com  
104 Burney Drive  
Flowood, Mississippi 39232

Capital Ortho, formerly known as Capital Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center, is a full-service, comprehensive orthopedic clinic and surgery center that is comprised of two physical locations and seven satellite locations. While each of Capital Ortho's nine surgeons are certified in general orthopedic care, all also bring with them specialized areas of training and years of experience treating a diverse customer demographic.

For almost 30 years thousands of patients and their families have trusted us with their care. Over those years we have grown in many ways, but our values have remained unchanged, which are to treat each of our patients, to the best of our knowledge and expertise, with care, compassion, and concern.

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long-term success of our patients is important, because we believe that each patient is important. You matter at Capital Ortho, and we hope you will let us help you live your best life.

### COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Jennifer Spruiell  
jennifer.spruiell@columbiasouthern.edu  
251-975-7208 (cell)  
21982 University Lane  
Orange Beach, Alabama 36561

Columbia Southern University is an online university based in Orange Beach, Alabama, that strives to change and improve lives through higher education by enabling students to maximize their professional and personal potential. CSU offers online degree programs at the associate, bachelor, master, doctorate or certificate levels in a multitude of areas such as occupational safety and health, fire administration, criminal justice, business administration, human resource management, health care administration and more. CSU also features undergraduate and graduate certificate programs to provide focused training in specialized areas for adult learners.

### DARLEY DEFENSE

Troy Connor  
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Memphis, Tennessee 38117-7407  
www.erau.edu

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace, is a nonprofit, independent institution offering more than 80 baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degree programs. Embry-Riddle educates students at residential campuses in Daytona Beach, FL, and Prescott, AZ., through the Worldwide Campus with more than 125 locations globally, and through online programs. For more information, visit erau.edu.

### **EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE**

Leanne Hall  
601-313-6508 (office)  
Leanne.y.hall.ctr.army.mil  
1410 Riverside Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

ESGR, a Department of Defense program, was established in 1972

to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

### **EYE SAFETY SYSTEMS, INC. \***

Brunk Conley  
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At ESS, our unyielding passion is to make the toughest eyewear in the world. Not because it's our job, but because it's our duty -- a duty inspired by those we serve: military personnel, first responders, and other everyday heroes. Those who rely on ESS can't settle for less, so we can't either. We provide go-to styling and superior fit, form, and function so our tough customers can stay safe and be brave: on or off duty, beyond risk and on to adventure.

ESS innovation is born from intense listening to elite warriors. We dissect their challenges, then roll up our sleeves to create real-life solutions that work under duress. The end result is battle-proven eye pro with a track record of peak performance in the most hostile environments. The entire line of ESS ballistic-grade eye pro is engineered to meet or exceed the most stringent U.S. Military and ANSI Z87.1-2015 specifications.

### **FIRST HERITAGE CREDIT, LLC \*\*\***

Bill Porter  
605 Crescent Boulevard, Suite 101

# COMPANY GRADE CAUCUS



Nearly three years ago we were approached by Captain Amanda Woods with an idea to engage company grade officers from the Air and Army National Guard. Out of this initial conversation was born the Company Grade Caucus. The goal is to provide young Service members with access to the resources needed to both advance their careers and better serve our state and nation. The caucus meets quarterly and maintains electronic communication throughout the year. The quarterly meetings normally consist of a lunch and guest speaker from an area of interest proposed by the members. Once the initial presentation is completed each speaker has taken questions from the audience and been very generous with their time. Past guests include Governor Tate Reeves; Major General Durr Boyles, Adjutant General of Mississippi; Brigadier General Joe Hargett, Director of the Joint Staff; Colonel Tommy Tillman, 172 AW Commander; Colonel David Martian, Director of Personnel; and many others.

The Company Grade Caucus also allows senior leadership to gain specific feedback on broad policies and regulations. It is also a time for choosing representatives for various committees and seminars. Each year company grade officers travel to the headquarters of the National Guard Association of the United States in Washington, DC for the Capital Summit as well as meetings to other destinations across the United States.

Here is the thank you letter received by the NGAMS Board of Directors from one of our company grade officers in response to attending the Capital Summit.

"I just wanted to take the time out and personally thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the National Capital Summit. I learned a tremendous amount of knowledge about legislation and NGAUS role in advocating for our national guard, I learned about two main priorities, and even got the chance to talk to Congressmen on the Hill. I was able to visit with a few guard friends, see some amazing sights and national memorials, stop by Congressman Kelly's office; just to name a few things. It has sparked my interest on a whole new level and I think I will run as the next area 4 rep for the Company Grade Caucus. Thank you again".

Further, Mississippi has two company grade officers on national committees to include Captain Brian Hartfield on the Company Grade Committee and Captain Nancy Porter on the Membership Committee. Service on these committees include paid travel to Washington DC and other locations in addition to invaluable experience with national leadership.

Here is the report from Captain Porter after her first membership meeting.

"I had the honor of attending my first NGAUS Membership Committee Meeting on 16 January 2022 at the Hyatt Regency in





Columbus, OH. The meeting was chaired by MG Randall Simmons, and lead by BG (R) Maria Kelly, Director of Membership and Marketing for NGAUS. As of December 31, 2022, the membership strength numbers for Area IV (which includes 7 states) are: Mississippi 112%, Arkansas 109%, Kansas 105%, Louisiana 104%, Oklahoma 39%, Texas 36%, and Missouri 16%.

I was particularly impressed with the following states that exceeded 100% membership strength: Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Virgin Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and Delaware.

The purchase of Lifetime Memberships has greatly increased in the 3.5 months since the roll out of the Digital Life Membership in October of 2021. This new offer has brought in close to 1,000 new lifetime members in a very short span of time, which is a huge success for our organization.

For every Lifetime Membership purchased, NGAUS returns 25% to the state association. Many states like Mississippi are using this rebate to reduce the cost of the Digital Lifetime Memberships from \$500 to \$375 for new members, which is an excellent value and a limited offer that will come to an end. One point of interest is that any officer who has never been a part of NGAUS can receive their first year of membership for free in the form of a Complimentary Membership. This gives officers who are new to the organization the ability to register for their local and national conferences, attend

meetings, and be exposed, learn about, and participate in the organization's benefits, events, and networking opportunities before deciding to join.

We discussed the need for each state office to build relationships and communicate with various unit manpower offices, recruiting offices, and commissioning sources such as ROTC, OCS, and others to prepare and educate new incoming officers about membership benefits. However, each member of NGAUS has a personal responsibility to take time to mentor and engage new officers in their environment, explain how the organization has positively impacted and benefited them personally, and encourage the Complimentary Membership so new officers can experience it for themselves."

The opportunities to serve and expand your horizons are endless. Please visit the Company Grade officer tab on the NGAMS website for more information on the next meeting and leadership contact numbers.





## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS 2022

Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157  
[www.1stheritagecredit.com](http://www.1stheritagecredit.com)

First Heritage Credit was founded and in 1995, on the basic business principle that we can be most successful if we treat our employees, customers and each other with dignity and respect. This has worked well for us because today, First Heritage Credit serves over 100,000 customers through 106 branches operating in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Since we are a community based Lender, lending decisions are made locally by Branch Managers who live, shop and work in the communities they serve. This community knowledge and personal interaction allows us to customize personal installment

loans that meet the customer's financial need with a payment they can afford. In addition to personal loans, First Heritage Credit provides financing to local merchants for consumer items such as furniture, appliances, electronics, ATV's and much more.

We are committed to providing our employees with a competitive compensation and benefits package and a positive and rewarding work environment. We continually seek career oriented, motivated and customer service driven individuals to join our Company. Our emphasis on training, education and individual and team performance goals provides employees with an opportunity to advance within our Company.

Our mission is to improve the lives of our customers by providing solutions for financial needs that they face. Fast and Friendly Service

is not just a slogan at First Heritage, it is a way of life. Through our network of Branch Offices located in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee our goal is to be the "Lender of Choice" in the communities we serve.

---

### GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Rob Nickles  
850-612-7285  
[rob.nickles@gcu.edu](mailto:rob.nickles@gcu.edu)  
3300 West Camelback Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85017

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### G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION \*\*

Bradley J. Crawford  
Executive Director & President  
[gvm.fndn@gmail.com](mailto:gvm.fndn@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 911  
Meridian, MS 39302



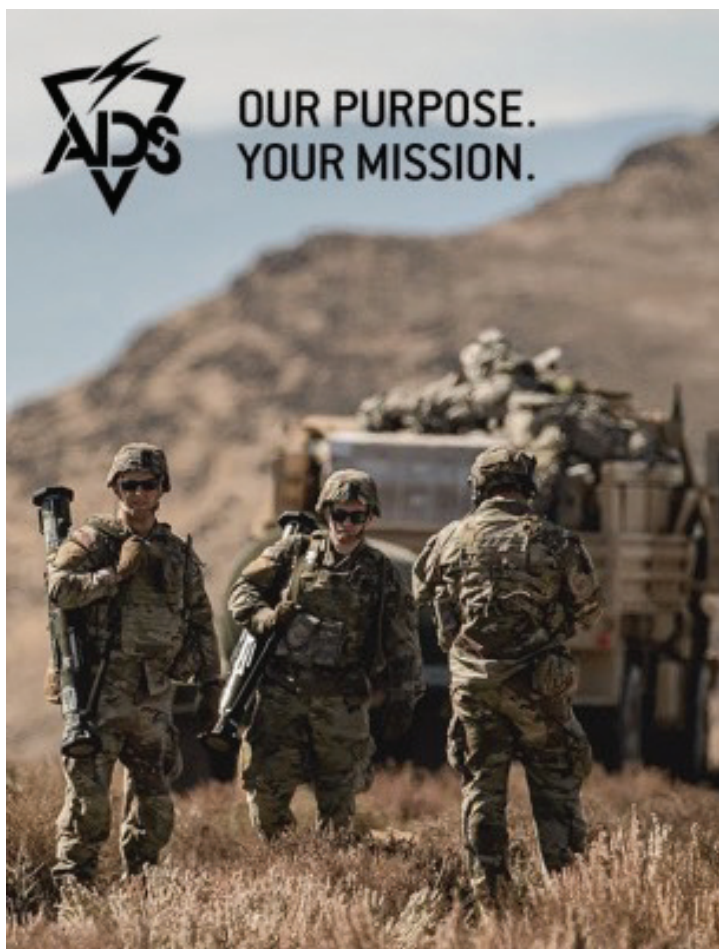
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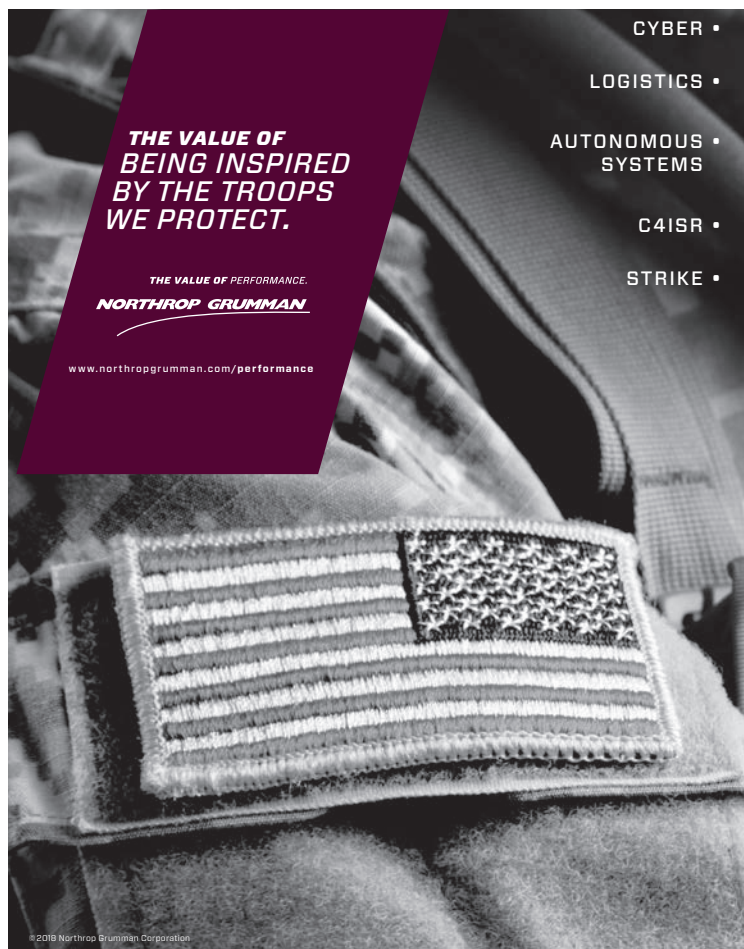
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# State Sponsored Life Insurance

As we have referenced many times, insurance is not a pleasant topic as it forces us to face our own or a loved one's mortality. However, it is a topic that must be discussed to ensure the financial stability of our families. Sadly, one hundred thirty six of our families dealt with this eventuality this fiscal year. Our insurance program provided \$1,293,500 in assistance in support of claims of one hundred six Service members and thirty dependents. Unfortunately, nine of our families did not have coverage through the Association.

Commanders are responsible for ensuring the readiness of their soldiers and airmen- this is the number one priority. Part of this responsibility should be addressing financial management planning, which includes insurance. If our National Guard families are aware of the benefits and minimal cost, they would likely carry at least the minimum coverage the NGAMS Insurance program offers. To that end, leaders are encouraged to help each member understand their whole family can be insured for as little as \$6.80 per month.

Currently, the combined Air and Army National Guard insurance participation is fifty-two percent. The Air National Guard participation is thirty-eight percent while the Army National Guard participation is fifty-seven percent. The NGAMS staff is always ready to provide units their current level reports to assist commanders in reviewing their participation. Again, the goal is to make sure Service members are aware of the tremendous benefit offered by the Association and their responsibility to provide for their dependents when tragedy strikes.

You can easily enroll using your laptop or smartphone under the "Insurance" tab at [www.ngams.org](http://www.ngams.org). You may also contact the NGAMS office at 601-354-7555 for any questions regarding enrollment or other matters. Also, leaders are encouraged to call and set up an insurance presentation at their respective units. Together, we can make a difference.

Col Britt Watson/LTC Deidre Smith  
Co-Chairs, Committee on Insurance

1

No Cost \$1,000 Death Benefit for Active Guard Members

This benefit is free to you. All Mississippi active guard members are covered 24/7 whether drilling or not. There's no enrollment necessary - you are automatically eligible for this benefit should something happen to you. Death benefit is paid to named beneficiary, spouse, or next of kin.

2

Basic Coverage

The Basic program provides financial protection in the event of death. It also provides coverage for your spouse and/or children, all at an affordable monthly cost.

### Member Coverage

Basic coverage gives you 4 options. After 12 consecutive months, you are eligible for increased insurance which becomes effective on the next June 1 following completion of the 12 month period.

**The additional coverage is at no-cost to you.**

Member Coverage		
Amount	Monthly cost	After 12 months
\$10,000	\$3.80	\$12,500
\$16,000	\$6.00	\$21,000
\$25,000	\$8.95	\$32,500
\$35,000	\$12.25	\$45,000

### Dependent Coverage

If you and your spouse are both members of the MS National Guard you must have your own individual coverage. Either you or your spouse can apply for coverage on children but not both.

Dependent Coverage		
Spouse	Each child	Monthly cost
\$10,000	\$2,500	\$3.00
\$15,000	\$5,000	\$4.00
\$30,000	\$10,000	\$8.00
\$50,000	\$15,000	\$13.00

**Separation:** If you have been insured for 12 consecutive months, you can retain your basic coverage until age 60. You may keep the same amount in force except for the extra increased insurance. You can pay the monthly contribution on a direct bill basis.

**Retirement:** At retirement, if you have 20 years of service and have been insured for 12 consecutive months, coverage continues in force until age 60 at the same premium. Between 60 - 70 death benefit reduces to \$10,000, spouse benefit to \$10,000, and dependent children to \$2,500. At age 70, death benefit reduces to \$5,000, spouse benefit to \$5,000, and dependent children remains at \$2,500.

**Spouse retention:** A surviving spouse age 59 or less of an insured member who dies before age 60 can retain the coverage he/she carried as a dependent of the deceased Guard member and may include related coverage on the already insured dependent children at a slightly higher cost.

# 3

## Enhanced Coverage

When you have the maximum coverage in the Basic program, you can purchase additional coverage. The Enhanced program provides affordable term life insurance with a level death benefit and only 3 age bands for contributions.

### Affordable life insurance

You can purchase \$50,000 of protection for as little as \$5 a month if you're under 50 years of age and don't use tobacco products. Contributions increase at each age band as shown below.

No medical exam for Guard members under age 50 applying for up to \$250,000 of coverage and ages 50-59 up to \$100,000. For spouses, no medical exam under age 40 up to \$250,000 and under age 50 up to \$150,000. Just complete the enrollment form and answer a few health questions.

### Coverage from \$50,000 to \$400,000

Based on your individual situation, you decide how much coverage is right for you and your family.

### Emergency death benefit payment

Emergency death benefit payment of up to \$15,000 within one business day of notification to help your loved ones with immediate costs.

### Full coverage after retirement or separation

As long as contributions are paid, coverage continues to age 70\*. There are no occupation restrictions, so regardless of what you do after the military, you're covered. Regardless of any health issues that may develop in the future, you're still covered. Upon retirement or separation, policy contributions will be paid directly to AFBA rather than through allotment.

### Spouse coverage

You can easily purchase coverage for your spouse on the same application.

Monthly Contributions (Male/Female) Non-Tobacco\*\*

Age	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$400,000
18-49	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00
50-59	\$18.00	\$36.00	\$54.00	\$72.00	\$90.00	\$108.00	\$126.00	\$144.00
60-69	\$44.00	\$88.00	\$132.00	\$176.00	\$220.00	\$264.00	\$308.00	\$352.00

\*\*Tobacco user contributions are two (2) times non-tobacco user contributions. Tobacco user is one who has used any tobacco product in the past 12 months.

Medical Requirements for Current or Former Military Member

	18-39	40-49	50-59
\$50,000	●	●	●
\$51,000 - \$100,000	●	●	●
\$101,000 - \$150,000	●	●	●
\$151,000 - \$200,000	●	●	●
\$201,000 - \$250,000	●	●	●
\$251,000 - \$300,000	●	●	●
\$301,000 - \$400,000	●	●	●

Medical Requirements for Non-Military Spouse

	18-39	40-49	50-59
\$50,000	●	●	●
\$51,000 - \$100,000	●	●	●
\$101,000 - \$150,000	●	●	●
\$151,000 - \$200,000	●	●	●
\$201,000 - \$250,000	●	●	●
\$251,000 - \$300,000	●	●	●
\$301,000 - \$400,000	●	●	●

● Statement of Health

● Paramed Exam, Blood Profile and Urinalysis

● Paramed Exam, Blood Profile and Urinalysis and Resting EKG

You can provide the protection and peace of mind your loved ones need at affordable rates with AFBA. All active Mississippi National Guard members are eligible to apply. In addition to peace of mind, an AFBA membership gives you access to a wealth of benefits and products designed with your needs in mind.

Visit [www.afba.com](http://www.afba.com) for complete details on other member benefits.

\* After 70th birthday, Enhanced coverage terminates on coverage anniversary date.



## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS 2022

The G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation was established more than a decade ago through the foresight of its benefactor, then Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery. His intention was to provide a vehicle to which the bulk of his estate would be left and be used, after his death, to support and encourage his greatest interests during his life.

The Foundation strives to carry his legacy forward as it recognizes civilian and military leaders who have excelled and made significant contributions to excellence in his or her field, encourages leadership development, education, excellence in scholarship and support of various military and veteran projects and needs.

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### HELIBASKET, LLC

John Tollenaere  
864-638-6196  
admin@heli-basket.com  
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Tony Kennedy  
228-257-4946 (cell)  
tkennedy1@humana.com  
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Biloxi, Mississippi 39532

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### INDIANA TECH MILITARY AND VETERAN SERVICES

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### JBHM ARCHITECTURE

Kimberly Buford  
601-326-7602 (office)  
kbuford@jbhm.com  
308 East Pearl Street, Suite 300  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201  
info@jbhm.com

JBHM has worked in almost every county in Mississippi, and in many locations throughout the Southeast. We are continually growing our footprint and capabilities to better address our client's needs.

JBHM is the proud recipient of the 'Top 333 Design and Architecture Firms in the Almanac of Architecture & Design. We are invested in our employees and credited as 'One of The Best Places to Work' in the Mississippi Business Journal. The variety of project types in which we specialize has grown over the years. While the design of Educational Facilities still remains one of our core specialties, we have expertise

in Industrial, Healthcare, Civic and Corporate sectors.

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### KEESLER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION \*\*\*

Caitlin Bradshaw  
601-278-4209 (cell)  
caitlin.bradshaw@kfcu.org  
389 Ridge Way, Building K, Suite 3  
Flowood, Mississippi 39232

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HELICOPTERS







The official name of the retired officer association for the State of Mississippi is the “Committee on Continuity”, however, the group is commonly known as the “At Ease Gang”. The At Ease Gang is made up of retirees from the Mississippi National Guard who want to support and serve our military families and communities. The motto clearly states their intent- “Stacked but Loaded, At Ease but Ready”. The members of the At Ease Gang pray for our Service members and their families

and strive to assist them in their ongoing service to our nation. The At Ease Gangs specifically support those less fortunate through their monetary contributions and general support to the Palmer Children’s Home in Columbus, Mississippi.

The At Ease Gang not only attends their monthly meetings and the state and national conferences but also participate in the Adjutant General’s annual Retiree Day at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Retiree Day is normally held in the middle of May and allows the Adjutant General and his staff to brief the retirees on the most recent developments in the national guard and enjoy fellowship with those that have served.

Under the “Retiree News” section under the “Retirees” tab on the NGAMS Website, our retired members can find out the latest on benefits available to them and issues impacting their daily lives.



---

## **AASF 1 JACKSON, MS HKS RETIREE GROUP**

Host: 1SG (Ret.) James Lundstrom

Date: Middle Wednesday of each month

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Cracker Barrel Restaurant, 410 Riverwind Drive, Pearl, MS 39208

Contact Info: 1SG (Ret.) James Lundstrom 601-953-3867 (cell)

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## **BROOKHAVEN AT EASE GANG**

Host: COL(Ret.) Glen Odom

Date: Last Monday of each month

Time: 8:00 am

Location: Cracker Barrel, 1207 Hampton Drive, Brookhaven, MS 39601

Contact Info: COL(Ret.) Glen Odom 601-826-6569 (cell)

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## **GRENADA AT EASE GANG**

Host: LTC (Ret.) Buddy Morrison, his wife BJ Morrison and Jim Crawford

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Time: 10:45 am

Location: Pap's Restaurant, Hwy 8/1301 Sunset Drive (behind Pizza Hut), Grenada, MS 38901

Contact Info: MSG(R) Betty Jo "BJ" Morrison 662-230-3642 (cell)  
princessbj51@gmail.com

---

## **GULF COAST AT EASE GANG**

Host: CMSgt (Ret.) Charlie Carrigan

Date: First Tuesday of the month

Time: 7:30 am

Location: Treasure Bay Casino

Contact Info: CMSgt (Ret) Carrigan 228-806-4453 (cell)  
charliec@bellsouth.net

---

## **HATTIESBURG AT EASE GANG**

Host: CW5 (Ret.) John Prine and COL(Ret.) Mark Prine

Date: Last Friday of each month

Time: 11:00 am

Location: All Ranks Club at Camp Shelby, 2100 21st Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Contact Info: CW5 John Prine 601-550-2672 (cell) 601-268-2228 (home)  
COL(Ret.) Mark Prine 601-466-6521 (cell)

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## **JACKSON METRO AT EASE GANG**

Host: Brig Gen (Ret.) David Kirtley and BG(MS) David Barton

Date: Last Wednesday of each month

Time: 7:30 am

Location: Brent's Drugs, 655 Duling Ave, Jackson, MS 39216

Contact Info: Brig Gen (Ret) Kirtley 601-750-7528 (cell)  
BG(MS) David Barton 601-955-4345

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## **MERIDIAN AT EASE GANG**

Host: CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers

Date: Third Thursday of each month

Time: 7:30 am

Location: Anderson Hospital, 2124 14th St, Meridian, MS 39301

Contact Info: CMSgt (Ret) Ricky Myers 601-201-6580 (cell)  
msccm10@gmail.com

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## **USPFO-MS RETIREE GROUP**

A retiree group consisting of both retired military and civil service civilian employees who share a common bond of either having worked at some point in their career or retired with one of the MSNG entities located at the USPFO-MS Complexes at Flowood or Camp Shelby, i.e. USPFO-MS, MSNG JFH G4 (DOL) or JFH J6 (IM). The group has a spring luncheon the first Friday of June and a fall luncheon the first Friday of December each year with spouses included. Monthly there is a luncheon on the third Wednesday of each month in which the co-workers attend. POC for the group is Glen Odom, 601-526-9060 or email glendodom@bellsouth.net or Julie Renfrow, 601-925-4410 or email hessiemaud@att.net. You may also follow us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1405546329553758/>

Please be aware any changes will be updated at [www.ngams.org](http://www.ngams.org) under the "Retirees" tab.



## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS 2022

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### LITEFIGHTER SYSTEMS LLC \*\*

Rich Coachys  
404-718-9818  
rcoachys@litefighter.com  
314 Tupelo Trail  
Canton, Georgia 30114  
www.litefighter.com

LiteFighter Systems, LLC is a family owned, VA certified, Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) that provides rugged, lightweight, versatile and highly mobile individual shelter systems and tactical gear for the US Military and the outdoor camping community. Made in America. Built by soldiers, for soldiers.

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### MAK TECHNOLOGIES

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386-631-1744  
wkamer@mak.com  
13501 Ingenuity Drive, Suite 200  
Orlando, Florida 32826

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of the MAK ONE simulation platform. We have been delivering military simulation and training technology for more than 30 years, and the MAK ONE platform is the core of training simulations for the US Department of Defense and customers worldwide.

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### MILITARY & VETERANS IN RECOVERY BANYAN TREATMENT CENTERS

Joanne Devine  
855-687-3422 (office)  
850-333-3604 (cell)  
jdevine@banyancenters.com  
950 North Federal Highway  
Pompano Beach, Florida 33062

During war or conflict, military service members are exposed to many traumatic events. This exposure can increase their chances of developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other mental health problems. Once referred to as "shellshock" and later "battle fatigue," PTSD can be caused by witnessing warfare or other significantly tragic or startling events. However, there is hope at our Veterans in Recovery Program. We address the mood and thought disorders with proven therapeutic modalities. Banyan offers all levels of care for those who struggle with substance use, PTSD, and eating disorders

---

### MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU \*\*\*

Physical Address:  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
6311 Ridgewood Road  
Jackson, MS 39211

Mailing Address:  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
P.O. Box 1972  
Jackson, MS 39215-1972

Phone:  
1-800-227-8244 or 601-957-3200  
www.msfb.org

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation serves as the largest and strongest general farm organization in Mississippi, with more than 177,000 member families in 82 county Farm Bureaus. It is a voluntary, non-governmental, non-partisan organization seeking solutions to problems affecting the lives of farm families, both socially and economically.

Since its inception in 1922, the purpose of MFBF has been to provide a unified voice for Mississippi agriculture in the legislative arena, promote farm markets and serve as a leader in the state's agricultural community on local, state, national and international levels.

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### MISSISSIPPI VETERANS AFFAIRS

Melissa Wade  
601-576-4850 (office)  
mwade@msva.ms.gov  
660 North Street, Suite 200  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

To honor Veterans and their dependents through superior service, care and assistance.

---

### MISSISSIPPI'S TOUGHEST KIDS FOUNDATION

Tanya L. Mohawk  
601-842-9862 (cell)  
tmohawk@mtkfoundation.com  
P. O. Box 520  
123 E. Georgetown Street  
Crystal Springs, Mississippi 39059

Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation is constructing Camp Kamassa, Mississippi's first and only year-round fully handicap accessible camp facility for children and adults with serious illnesses, physical and mental challenges, and other special needs. Our vision is to provide a place where ALL campers will experience the fun, adventure,



*Providing Solutions to Ready the  
National Guard to win now and  
modernize the force with  
capabilities for future battlefields.*

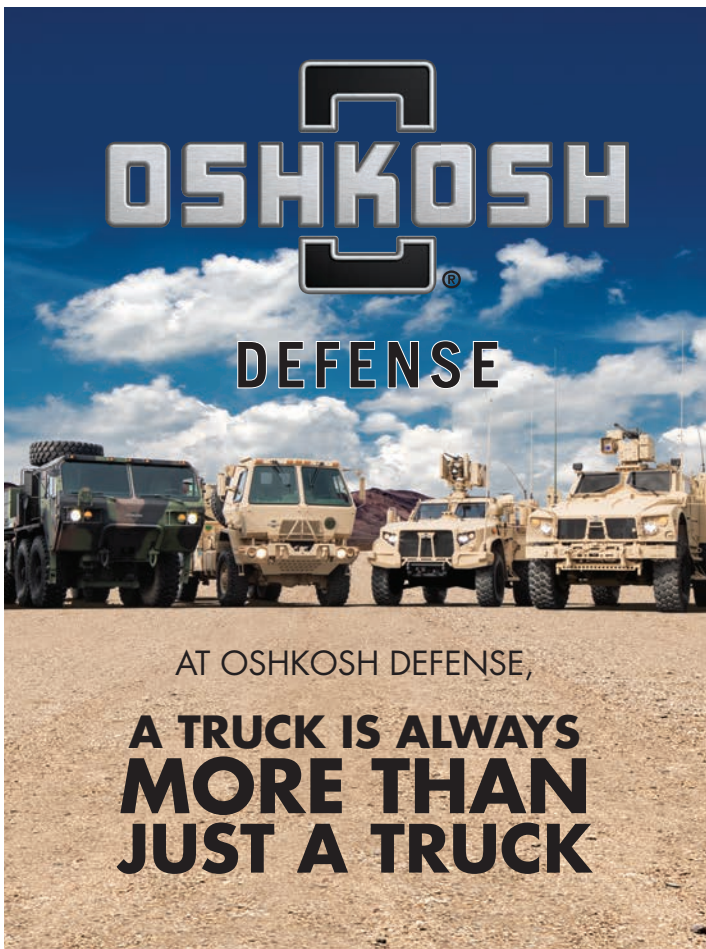
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For More information Contact:

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Program Manager, Mobilization Assistance Team  
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# THE NGAMS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

With this year's award the National Guard Association of Mississippi has awarded \$276,000 in scholarships to our Service members and their families. The program was proposed by former NGAMS President Tom Crosby and is a competitive scholarship that provides \$6,000 per year to exceptionally qualified officers and their dependents.

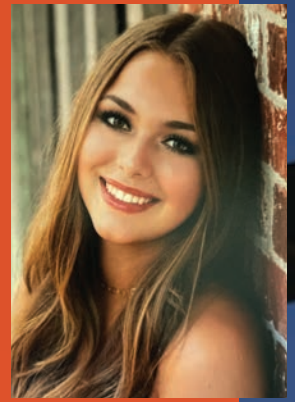
A total of 107 applicants have gone through the rigorous process. The selection criteria includes an examination of seven categories: Academics, Activities, Public Service, Military/Government Service, Employment, Awards, and Essay. The results have produced scholars that have since gone to study abroad, continued their educational journey to the doctorate level, started their own families, and progressed to the upper echelons of service in the Mississippi National Guard.

The National Guard Association of Mississippi is committed to supporting our members in each respective journey. Pictures below are the awardees from the first five years of the program.



## Ms. Skylar Alexander

Skylar is currently a junior at the University of Mississippi majoring in Biology with a double minor in Chemistry and Health & Society. She is philanthropy chair for her sorority Chi-Omega and deeply engaged with philanthropies Make-A-Wish and Blair E Batson. She is a Camp Ozark counselor and volunteers at Urgent Care of Oxford.



Can you please describe the role of the National Guard in our society and how that role could best be communicated to the population that is not in the military?

*In the United States, the National Guard has countless roles. I typically like to consider them as citizen soldiers. Their job in a broad sense is to respond to humanitarian disasters & domestic threats & emergencies. So how do we break this barrier & effectively communicate the National Guard's role to society & progressively develop their trust with citizens? The National Guard can provide words of affirmation to the community by becoming more involved in schools & communicate with students that they provide safety & security for the public when called upon. The National Guard sacrifices their time & protection as a gift to society. They take time away from their families & careers in order to protect & serve us. The National Guard's consistent presence in the community can increase familiarity & trust with what they do & can accomplish. I truly believe that moments, memories, & doing things with others creates & further develops relationships & understanding of one another.*

## 2022 NGAMS



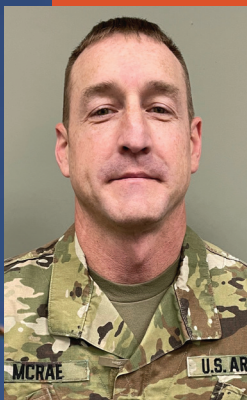
### Ms. Olivia Palmer

Olivia is an Elementary Education major at the University of Southern Mississippi with a concentration in Mathematics. She was salutatorian of her high school class and earned an ACT Eminent Scholarship. Since 2017 she has been an entrepreneur operating Custom Art by Olivia Palmer. Olivia is a volunteer with Make-A-Wish Foundation and maintains a consistent place on the USM President's List.

How can we best relay the role of the Mississippi National Guard to the general population?

*In my opinion, one of the more crucial aspects of explaining the role the Guard has on our society is the versatility each member has the ability to express. Because many positions in the National Guard allow for civilian careers to coexist, the Guard has a huge impact on the young men and women of our nation. Through the expression of flexibility the National Guard displays, young people are given the opportunity to see that serving our nation does not have to be all-consuming in either one's career or his or her personal life. The duality of home and abroad service the Guard provides allows for both quintessential military duty to be served, as our nation is defended in war zones, and in a less familiar form of military defense, as our communities are assisted locally with humanitarian disasters. This supplies great assurance within individuals' goals that one can realistically serve the nation, hold other career goals, and have an extensive personal life. In my family, sacrifices were both obviously present and frequently heavy. However, the downside to our sacrifices were easily overshadowed by the pride I felt for my father's occupation. Immediately being able to pick my dad out of a crowd of parents by his uniform has always made me beam with pride as I knew he (rightfully) appeared honorable among the rest. I can only hope my future children will one day be able to have the same experience with their parents.*





## Captain David McRae

David is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He is employed as a Senior Quality Engineer while also maintaining his active service as a member of the Mississippi National Guard and volunteering as a youth organizer at his church. An Active Life Member of NGAMS, David has previously served on the board of directors and many committees.

How do you think the National Guard is viewed in society?

*Since 2008 our society has started to shift its view of National Guard Soldiers' importance. Through the increased operation pace of many units across the state each year, our community is beginning to understand our vital role in the National Defense. I still believe there is more to be done in this effort across all facets of our community and business society. The different pace took a significant toll on each Soldier's family and their employment. Each of these issues revolves around our society not understanding the National Defense hinges on our National Guard Soldiers' support. My personal goal is to change our community daily with every person I meet. I try to educate leaders on how critical a Soldier's time away from work is to the stability of our society. Throughout my 19-year career, I have been a massive advocate for the importance of the National Guard. I will continue to stress that a soldier's training time needs to be viewed in high regard at the civilian and industrial levels. The Soldier's training time is one whole leg of our National Defense stool. Without this one leg, there is no way to support our Nation.*

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## Mr. Matt Roberson

Matt graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics at Mississippi State. Matt earned an NGAMS Undergraduate Scholarship after being valedictorian for Copiah Academy. He is a research engineer for Advanced Composites Institute at Mississippi State University while serving on the Interfraternity Council and as a child mentor at Project Brickfire.



Why is the National Guard such an important part of our military?

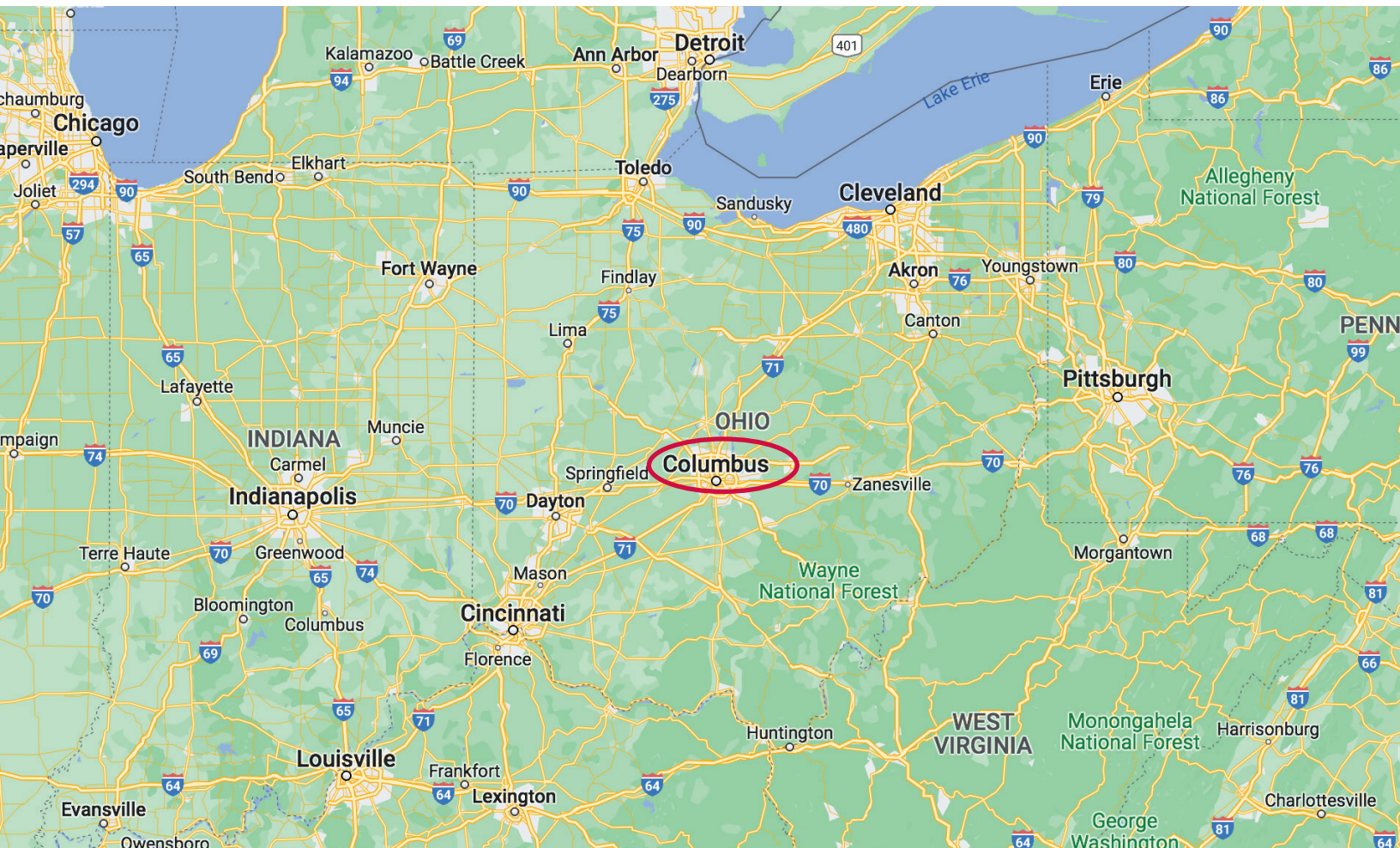
*Each member of the National Guard, both part time and full time, offer the greatest sacrifice that any American citizen can offer. To be able to work as a normal civilian on a day-to-day basis and still be on the front line in the state of emergency is what it means to be an American. To me, joining the National Guard, and the military in general, is the ultimate sacrifice that one can make. They risk their lives with the sole purpose of protecting this country. We have experienced this firsthand with the recent pandemic. When everyone had no idea what to do, the national guards Soldiers and Airmen were out in the public eye giving out tests. This was the same case when the vaccine was developed. When you needed to receive a vaccine, the first doses administered were by the National Guard. I think that the general population looks the National Guard in with the rest of the military, even though their role can be very different. The National Guard is under the control of the Governor 95% of the time and serves a State mission. When a hurricane ravages a town, who is the first to show up? When there are riots or civil unrest, who protects the citizens? If there were terrorist attacks in your home state, who would you look to protect you? Your neighbors and coworkers in the National Guard will be the ones to fill those roles should an emergency unfold.*





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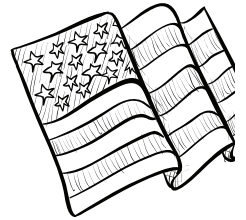




# From Our Military Heritage to Yours.

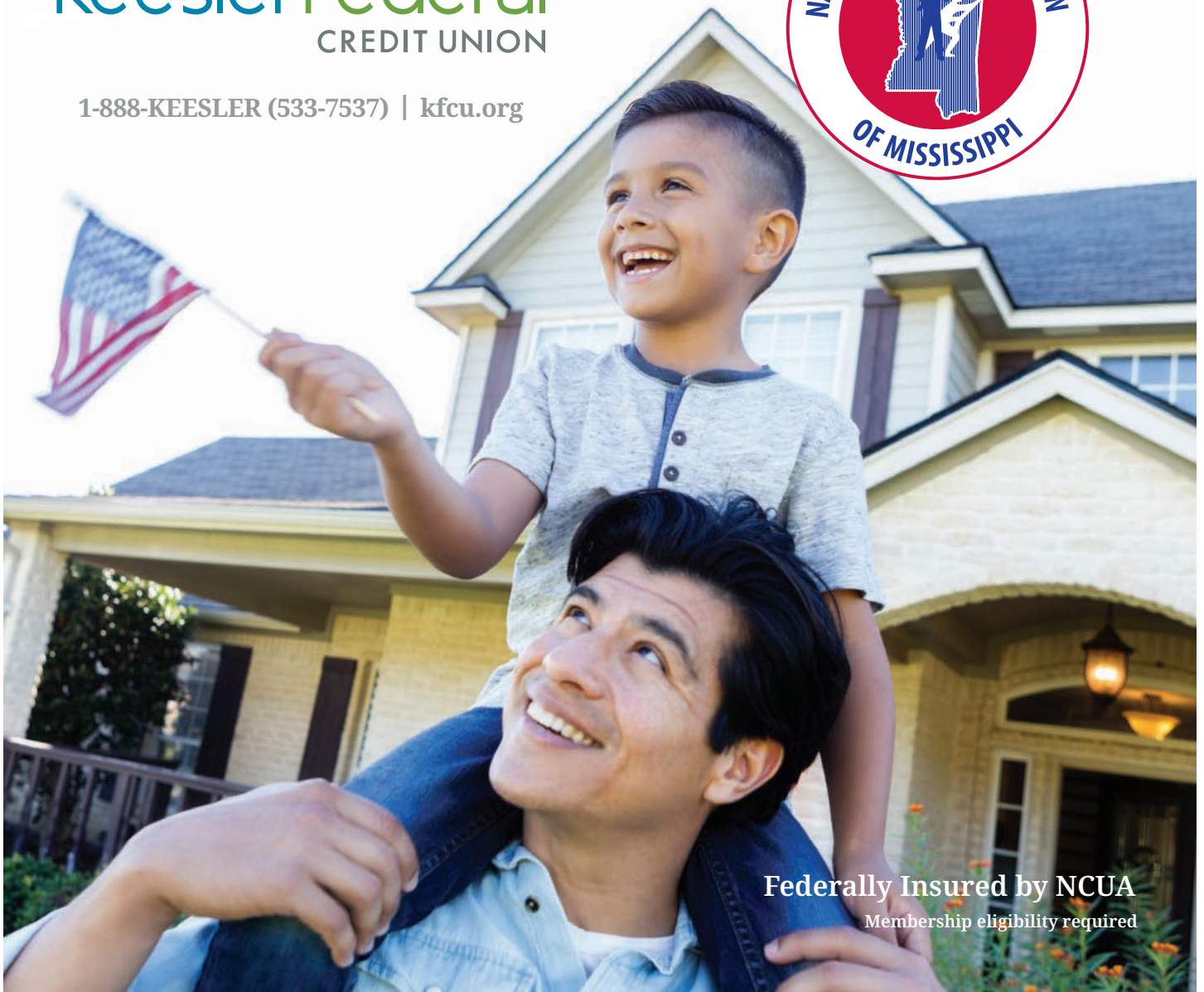


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# BAE SYSTEMS







The National Guard Association of Mississippi is pleased to announce Captain Thomas Brewer has earned the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation Leadership Award.

Captain Brewer enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard at the age of 32 to honor his late grandfather, a World War II veteran. He commissioned through the Mississippi Officer Candidate School program, and served his first assignment with the 287th Mobility Augmentation Company as Platoon Leader. He volunteered to transfer to the 859th Vertical Engineer Company for deployment to Afghanistan in 2013, where he led a platoon of Minnesota Soldiers to train the 201st CEK Afghan National Army in horizontal engineering operations. Additionally, he served as Area Support Group Balkans DPW Director in Kosovo where he managed a \$17,000,000 Contract with KBR, provided \$3,000,000 in base improvements to Camp Bondsteel, and submitted a Power Modernization Plan to transition base from expensive generator power to host nation power, which saved an estimated \$4,700,000 annually. This young accomplished captain then transferred to the Mississippi Air National Guard in January 2021.

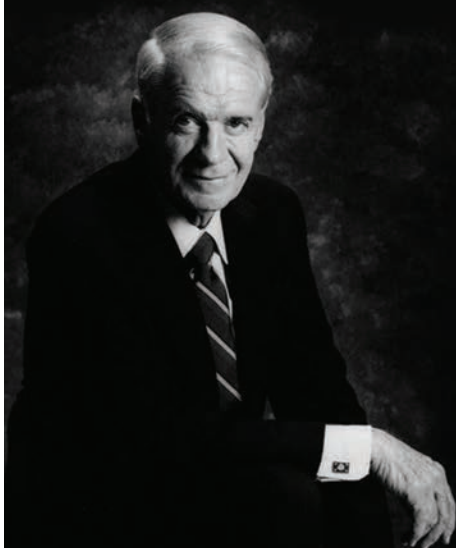
Captain Brewer's first year at the Gulfport CRTC has been impressive. He executed \$2,100,000 in SRM and rebuilt the base master planning program, which includes more than \$54,000,000 in construction over the next 10 years.

Captain Brewer is the embodiment of the qualities and character that the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Leadership Foundation Leadership Award seeks to recognize. No matter the assignment or position, Captain Brewer has withstood the tests that separate the good from the great. Read his full biography, to include his incredible list of accomplishments and awards, on our homepage [www.ngams.org](http://www.ngams.org).

The G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation's mission is to honor "Sonny", to perpetuate his important legacy, to encourage leadership, and support educational activities relating to citizenship, military service, and veterans' affairs.

It was established more than a decade ago through the foresight of its benefactor, then Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery. His intention was to provide a vehicle to which the bulk of his estate would be left and be used, after his death, to support and encourage his greatest interests during his life.

The Foundation strives to carry his legacy forward as it recognizes civilian and military leaders who have excelled and made significant contributions to excellence in his or her field, encourages leadership development, education, excellence in scholarship and support of various military and veteran projects and needs.



*G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery*

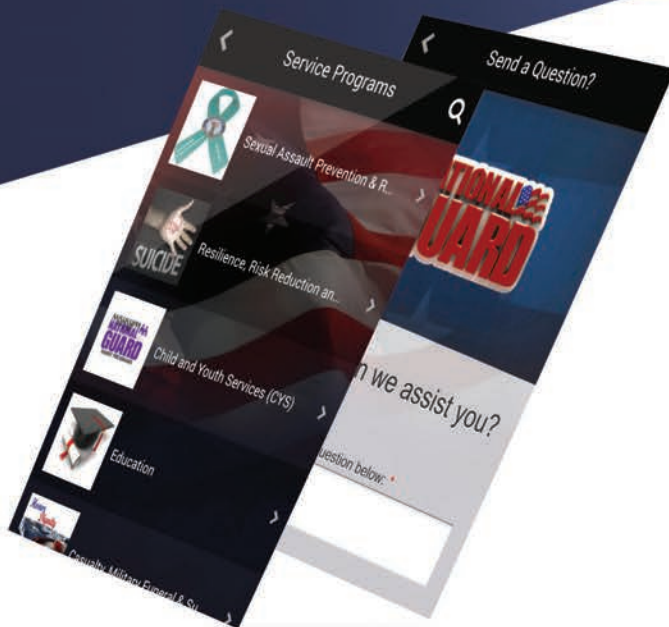
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Trustmark Tailored Wealth provides access to investment management and asset allocation strategies through Trustmark Investment Advisors, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Trustmark National Bank and a division of Trustmark Tailored Wealth.

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USAA stands for United Services Automobile Association. But we're not just an acronym. We're built on the core values of our founders: Service, Loyalty, Honesty and Integrity. USAA is among the leading providers of insurance, investing and banking solutions for US military members, veterans who have honorably served, and their families. With our roots grounded in the military, our employees are committed to bringing its methods to your finances and its values to our service.

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Veterans Range Solutions (VRS), Warhorse Training Solutions (WTS), Veterans Environmental Group (Vets Enviro) and Lighthouse Fleet Solutions (LFS) are all

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOB).

VRS' goal is to be the leading provider of sustainable range support for the U.S. Military and will always consider military-specific requirements such as sustainability, safety, realism, schedule, and cost effectiveness.

WTS approaches every requirement from a combat veterans' lens. Our goal is to be the premier provider for training support and service support for the U.S. Military.

Vets Enviro assists units in meeting their training mission requirements and environmental stewardship requirements, now and in the future.

LFS' core competencies are Wheel and Support Equipment Readiness, Recapitalization/Reset, Up-fit Modifications, Remanufacturing, Repair, Refurbish, and Design/Build Special Vehicle Requirements. LFS has the capabilities of a large company without the red tape.

## VITA INCLINATA TECHNOLOGIES

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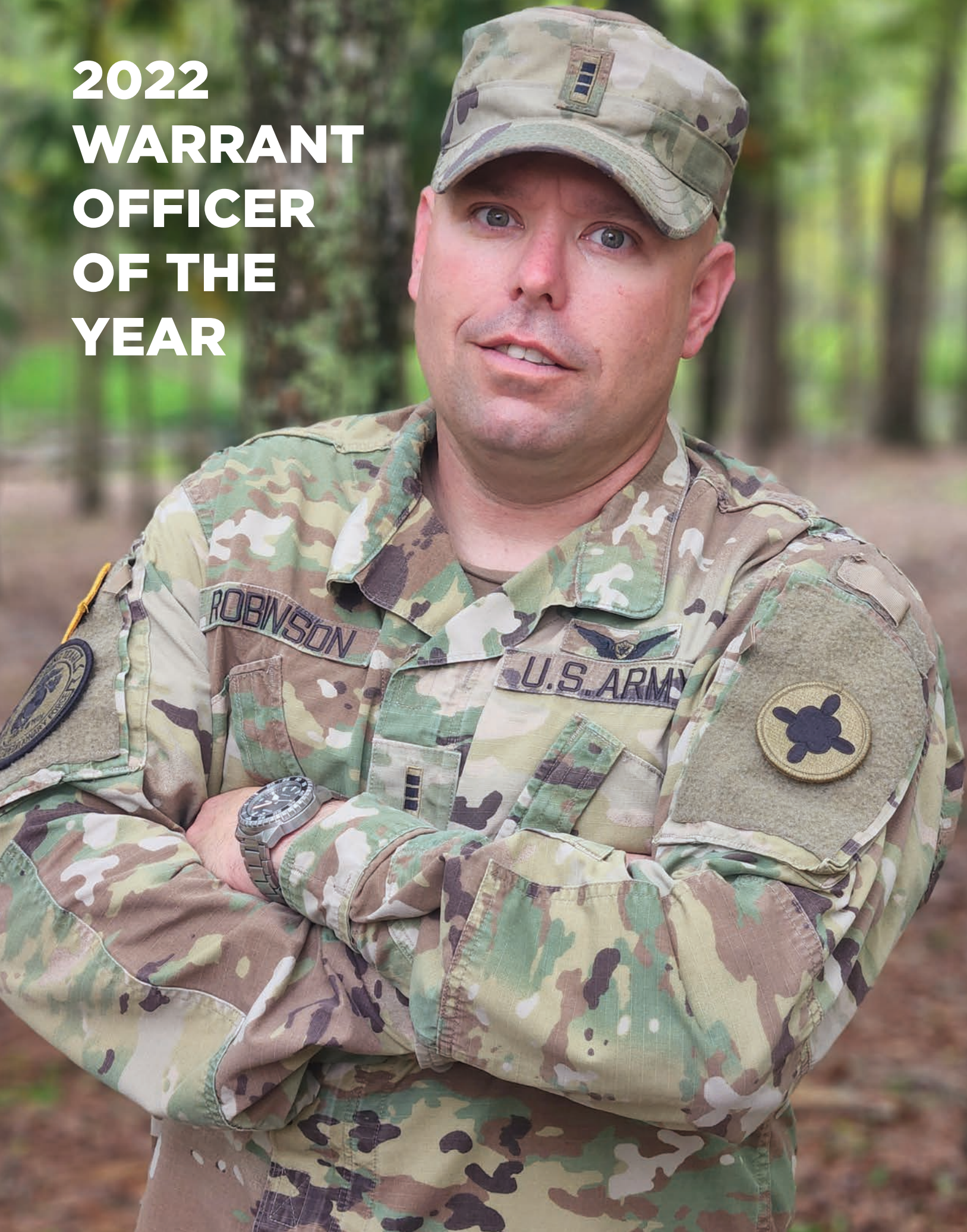
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**2022  
WARRANT  
OFFICER  
OF THE  
YEAR**







Our 2022 Warrant Officer of the Year, CW3 Dustin Robinson, a Human Resources Technician for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, is the subject matter expert for all areas of personnel readiness. In the absence of an S1 Officer with the 184th ESC, CW3 Robinson exceeded expectations by serving as the MSC S1 Officer while conducting his normal duties at a high rate of efficiency. During his time with the 184th and upon his reassignment from the G1-OPM, CW3 Robinson successfully stepped in and served as the MSC S1 Officer and managed S1 functions without interruption during various highly visible training exercises.

CW3 Robinson's most valuable traits are his work ethic, values, and can-do attitude. He is consistently willing to work long hours and travel endless miles to ensure the mission is accomplished. His ability to formulate great inter-personal and working relationships within the state greatly contributes to the unit's ability to receive pertinent information quickly. His commitment has improved the personnel and medical readiness of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command that

consists of twenty UIC's and the culmination over 2,030 Soldiers.

CW3 Robinson is not only a leader in the Mississippi Army National Guard, but also in his community where he volunteers within his church and as a coach for the Sumrall Girls Softball League. Additionally, Dustin manages an annual Veterans Day saltwater fishing charter for veterans which is sponsored by Shore Thing Charters and the Blind Tiger Restaurant. His willingness to serve others and success in diverse and challenging assignments attests to his abilities and character and demonstrate his status as a leader in the Mississippi National Guard.





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# 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

Through the efforts of the Legislative Committee, the members of the NGAMS, the Director of Legislative Affairs and Economic Development for the Adjutant General, and our leadership in the Mississippi Legislature, we had an incredibly successful legislative session. The following proposals have passed and been signed into law.

First, we are ecstatic to announce that we obtained an increase of the Mississippi Military Department budget. Over the past six years we have seen an increase in the budget for five of those years. Further, the Mississippi Military Department gained \$2,000,000 in additional appropriation for planning, construction, repair, renovation, replacement, furnishing and equipping readiness centers around Mississippi. Another \$1,000,000 was obtained to extend the military equipment storage depot at Camp Shelby. Under the American Rescue Plan Act \$10,931,000 was obtained for the purpose of completing capital projects at Mississippi National Guard buildings and grounds. \$6,000,000 was awarded to assist in paying the costs associated with land acquisition, site development and construction, furnishing and equipping of new buildings and facilities for, and the relocation of, the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby to an area fronting Highway 49. Finally, an additional \$2,000,000 per year was provided to offset the educational expenses of our Service members.

We are also excited to report the following successes in the nonrevenue bills.

## HB 1486

House Bill 1486 amends Section 63-1-208 and revises Mississippi's Commercial Driver's License Qualification Standards by requiring the Commission of Public Safety to implement test waivers for certain current and former military Service members. Currently applicants for a Mississippi commercial driver's license or CDL must pass a knowledge test and a practical driving skills test. Under House Bill 1486 the Commission will implement test waivers for certain former and current military service members as the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration reviewed the training provided by each branch of service and determined that the programs of instruction are more thorough and comprehensive than current required training. The bill also provides waivers for certain endorsement tests to include hazardous

materials, tanker vehicle, and passenger vehicle endorsements.

Military Service members obtaining their commercial driver's license through these waivers will not be required to obtain a commercial driver learner's permit. In addition, service members will not be required to meet the requirements of the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration's Entry Level Drivers Training regulations. Members of the Mississippi National Guard, Reserve, and Active-Duty branches of service will be included in the military Service members who qualify for the waivers. The waivers will also be available to separated Service members up to one year following their separation.

Why this matters to us: This change is a benefit of service. This bill allows Service members to utilize their military training to obtain a civilian career and save them time, money and abolishes the requirement for duplicate training.

## SB 2649

Amends Section 33-7-119, to remove an arbitrary provision requiring the state retirement of a member of the Mississippi National Guard upon reaching age 64. Members of the Mississippi National Guard, whether officer or enlisted, will now be able to serve as long as they are able to maintain federal recognition.

Why this matters to us: The current law is inconsistent with the federal guidelines and places the Mississippi National Guard at a disadvantage as we are unable to retain qualified and experienced members due to an arbitrary rule. The new law allows the Mississippi National Guard to better manage its ranks and better serve our members.

## HB 1177

Amends section 33-11-1, to authorize the adjutant general to make conveyances of real property on behalf of the state that are in the best interest of the Mississippi military department and convey to any public entity upon such terms and conditions as the adjutant general may deem advisable

Why this matters to us: There is currently no statutory authority for the adjutant general to transfer property

from the Mississippi National Guard back to the original public entity that owned it. The change in the statute allows the Mississippi National Guard to return property no longer utilized for training to avoid unnecessary costs of maintenance and upkeep.

As we state each year, every one of these statutory changes is tied to a personal story of at least one of

our Service members, family members, or retirees. It is our honor to work on their behalf. However we cannot protect and serve you if you are not a member and if you are not involved. Join today, attend the conferences, and find a place where you can serve in our organization. Your future and the future of your Mississippi National Guard depends on it.

## DO YOU NEED A CAREER AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START???

The screenshot shows the NGAMS website. The top navigation bar includes links for About NGAMS, NGAMS Scholarship, News & Resources, Events, Advocacy, Membership, Insurance, Support NGAMS, and Retirees. A search icon is also present. The main content area features a 'Career Center and Benefits' section with a heading and a paragraph stating: 'The NGAMS is proud to assist our Servicemembers in gaining and maintaining employment and careers. Please utilize the links on this page to guide you in your search.' Below this are several links: 'Mississippi National Guard Career Page', 'USA Jobs- Official Website of the United States Government', 'Mississippi Department of Employment Security', 'Mississippi Farm Corps Website', and 'Veterans Home Purchase Board'. A callout box with a curved arrow pointing to the 'News & Resources' tab in the navigation bar contains the following text: 'How about checking out the "Career Center and Benefits" under the "News and Resources" tab on our home page. The goal is to provide young service members with access to the resources needed to both advance their careers and better serve our state and nation. We link the latest available career and benefit opportunities.'

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**News & Resources**

- G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Company Grade Award
- Warrant Officer of the Year
- Mississippians Earning NGAUS Awards
- NGAMS Brochure
- Career Center and Benefits**
- News & Announcements
- The NGAMS Standard Magazine

**The Standard Magazine**

The Standard gives a concise overview of our programs and helps to connect our Servicemembers with the resources they need to most effectively complete their missions.

**Get The Standard**

**Life Membership**

Never pay NGAUS and NGAMS dues again. Sign up here for life membership to both organizations.

**Life Membership**

**Patriot Partners**

Support those who so generously give to our Servicemembers and their families.

**Serving Together**

**Life Insurance Application**

We have several life insurance options to meet the needs of you and your family.

**Sign up now**

**Conferences**

Keep yourself informed by attending the NGAMS Annual Conference and the NGAUS Conference.

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