

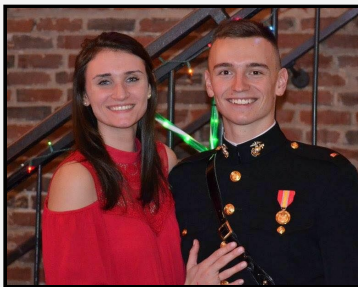


World's Greatest Naval Battalion (WGNB) Newsletter

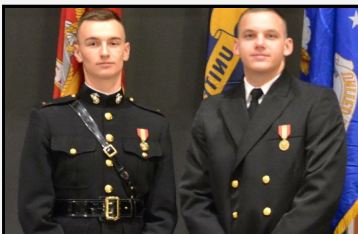
January 2018

Fall 2017 Tri-Service Commissioning Ceremony

The WGNB is proud to put forth two newly commissioned officers to finish off the calendar year. Congratulations to Second Lieutenant Forest Boggs, USMC and Ensign Nate Todd, USN for commissioning on 22 December 2017. The Tri-ROTC Commissioning Ceremony was held in the Armory Building Room 101 alongside the three Army and one Air Force commissionees. The ceremony included being sworn into office, the pinning of bars, and receiving a first official enlisted salute. Following the ceremony, the celebration continued at Brother's Bar & Grill, courtesy of the two new NROTC commissionees. Second Lieutenant Boggs graduated from Officer Candidate School (OCS) this past summer where he earned his eagle, globe, and anchor. He has graduated a semester early with a major in Political Science. The Marine Corps presented him with his well-deserved bars, which were pinned on by two of his closest friends, Midshipman 1/C Chris Leigh and Midshipman 1/C Austin Gregson. Colonel Mike McCarthy, USMC (Ret) was also in attendance, having the honor of commissioning Second Lieutenant Boggs. Additionally, former USMC Sergeant Byron Manuel gave Second Lieutenant Boggs his first salute. He has expressed the most gratitude to his friends for supporting him and stated, "This is the best Christmas present he will ever receive." Second Lieutenant Boggs is currently awaiting his orders to The Basic School (TBS). He would like to become an Intelligence Officer.



Second Lieutenant Boggs and his girlfriend, Kaylie, pose for a picture after the commissioning ceremony (above).
The newly Commissioned Officers pose together following the ceremony in the Armory (below).



Ensign Nate Todd is the WGNB's newest commissioned officer in the United States Navy. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. At the commencement of the ceremony, Captain Anthony Corapi, USN swore Ensign Todd into office. Following this, Ensign Todd's parents, Bryan and Debbie Todd, unveiled the stripes on his sleeves. As is tradition, Ensign Todd received his first official salute from his father Bryan, a former Navy Chief Petty Officer. Earlier this year, Ensign Todd was service assigned as a Student Naval Aviator. Moving forward, he will begin his service as a staff member in the unit prior to reporting to Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola, Florida for flight school. The WGNB would like to recognize Ensign Todd and Second Lieutenant Boggs for all the hard work and dedication toward their future careers and wishes them luck as they hit the fleet.



Following the ceremony, Ensign Todd poses for a picture in front of Alma Mater, as it is tradition when one graduates (above).
This years Endurance Team was composed of young Midshipmen, with two of them competing for their first time. From left to right, MIDN 4/C Boast, MIDN 4/C Villanova, MIDN 2/C DeLutio, and MIDN 3/C Austill (below).



Ceremony Honoring Navy Veteran SN Kenneth Grogg

For many veterans, achievements during their service are never formally recognized. On 05 December 2017, the University of Illinois Naval ROTC Battalion was happy to commend Seamen Kenneth Grogg, a Korean War veteran whose service was never fully recognized. Our Commanding Officer, Captain Anthony Corapi, USN presented SN Grogg with medals that he had previously never been formally awarded for his actions. The ceremony was held on campus at the Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education building in Urbana. Fifteen of our top Midshipmen attended the ceremony along with SN Grogg and his family, commemorating his achievements from his service over sixty years ago. A luncheon was held afterwards for all attendees to enjoy. The WGNB was happy to be present for the ceremony and thanks SN Grogg for his dedication and service to our country.



Commanding Officer, Captain Anthony Corapi, presents SN Grogg with his well-deserved medals for his service towards this country (above).

Tri-Service PT Competition

For the past six years, the WGNB has proven its physical abilities as we put forth our top athletes for the Tri-Service Competition against both the Army and Air force. Events included sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, a one mile run, a 4x200 meter relay, an Endurance Team competition, and a tug of war event. The WGNB took home the gold in five out of the seven events this year and claimed the Commanders Cup for the sixth year in a row. With a steady performance throughout the competition, the highlight every year seems to be the E-Team event, where our team fell behind at the start. However, the team did not lose hope but rather pushed harder, pulling far ahead of the other branches during the rest of the event. While being labeled a competition, this annual event brings the services together and builds both pride and comradery for all of the Cadets and Midshipmen at the University of Illinois. Congratulations to all of our competitors and a huge thank the Army for organizing this thrilling event.



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