



ASVA GALA

ASVA SCHOLARSHIP GALA

SPONSORSHIP OVERVIEW

**Come Share an Evening With the
Auburn Student Veterans Association**

WHEN: Friday, October 11, 2024

WHERE: Grand National Marriott Hotel

3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail

Opelika, AL 36801

TIME: 7:00 PM CST (Cocktail Hour Begins at 6:00 PM)

DRESS CODE: Black Tie or Senior Dress Uniform



A LETTER FROM OUR OFFICERS

Dear Sponsors,

We invite your organization to join us as a valued sponsor for our annual Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) Scholarship Gala. This event transforms the lives of our deserving student veterans here at Auburn University.

By becoming a sponsor, you can directly impact the educational journey of our student veterans. Your support and scholarship donation will enable them to pursue their academic goals without the burden of financial stress. It is more than just a donation as well; it is an investment into the future of those who have honorably served our country.

Your sponsorship will not only make a meaningful difference but also provide your organization with significant visibility among a diverse audience. From student veterans to community leaders, your affiliation will be recognized and appreciated by those who value a commitment to supporting our students.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our student veterans. We will follow up throughout the calendar year to secure your sponsorship. This will allow us time to plan and acknowledge your contributions to our organization.

Together, we can give back to those who have served their country and highlight a commitment that is chosen only by a select few. We sincerely hope to have the privilege of partnering with your organization and making a lasting impact on the lives of our student veterans.

Respectfully,



Kevin Couch
ASVA President

ASVA Officers

President: Kevin Couch

Vice President: Michael Taylor

Secretary: Nolan Oglesby

Treasurer: Rex Fowler

Philanthropy Director: Camiel Clarke

ROTC Liaison: Ryder Burk

Dependent Liaison: Jaelynd Edwards

Media Manager: Georgie Seagraves

Web Master: Madeline Graf



To Secure Sponsorship Packet, Please Contact:

KEVIN COUCH

EMAIL: kmc0215@auburn.edu

PHONE: 501-554-0488

GALA HISTORY

The Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit student organization committed to supporting Auburn University's student veterans and their families. From the moment they transition into student life until their graduation, the ASVA recognizes the unique needs of student veterans and exists to provide them with the means for success. The ASVA hosts a variety of acclaimed programs and events to support student veterans and celebrate, among which is the ASVA Scholarship Gala.

First held in 2016, this event raises funds for scholarships, professional development opportunities and mentorship programs; tools that facilitate successful transitions from military service to academic and civilian life. Financial aid provided by the ASVA is designed to offer the necessary assistance for pursuing one's education without disrupting student veterans' existing sources of aid. The inaugural ASVA Scholarship Gala saw 200 attendees and was organized under the leadership of the ASVA's then-President Brett Warren, United States Air Force, and his Vice President Daniel Robinson, United States Army. Despite its hiatus during the Covid-19 pandemic, the gala continues to grow and flourish, boasting a triumphant return in 2022 with more than 300 attendees and \$7,000 in scholarships awarded.

The gala has a profound impact on the lives of student veterans. To reflect our devotion to student veterans, the ASVA has set the ambitious goal of awarding \$100,000 in scholarships during our upcoming 2024 gala. By providing scholarships and access to invaluable resources, the gala empowers student veterans to overcome financial barriers and achieve their educational goals. Additionally, the gala serves as a platform to raise awareness surrounding the challenges facing student veterans and the importance of supporting their reentry into civilian and student life.

The ASVA Scholarship Gala stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of Auburn University, the community and ASVA to backing student veterans throughout their academic journey. By honoring their sacrifices and providing crucial resources, the gala plays a pivotal role in ensuring student veterans receive the recognition and support they deserve. The 2024 gala promises to be the most impactful event to date, furthering the ASVA's mission of empowering student veterans to thrive in their educational pursuits and beyond. Through its continued success and growth, the gala reinforces the ASVA's pledge to the student veteran community and our dedication to making a lasting difference in the lives of student veterans.

2024

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JEFF STRUECKER

Jeff Struecker was a decorated soldier. At age 18, he enlisted in the United States Army as an infantryman and retired as a chaplain with over 22 years of active federal service. In 2017, he was inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame. He served for ten years in the 75th Ranger Regiment in positions from private to platoon sergeant. While serving in this unit, Jeff competed in and won the David L. Grange Best Ranger Competition in 1996. He taught ROTC at the University of Louisville and was recognized in 1998 as the US Army ROTC, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Jeff spent his final ten years in the US Army serving as a chaplain in Airborne and Ranger units. Throughout his career, Jeff has attended numerous professional military schools and has received many awards and commendations. Some of his awards include the Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutists Wings, Military



Freefall Master Parachutist Wings, several foreign jump wings and the Combat Action Badge. He has been awarded other commendations and decorations throughout his military career. His combat experience includes participation in the invasion of Panama, Operation Desert Storm, Black Hawk Down in Somalia and more than a dozen combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. Jeff has been awarded medals for valor in combat and has received many medals as recognition for his service in the US Army. Jeff holds a Ph.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. He also has several other earned and honorary degrees. He is the lead pastor of 2 Cities Church in Columbus, Georgia. He is an award-winning author with five books in print. He and his wife, Dawn, have five children and four grandchildren.



ASVA AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Luther Parker Memorial Scholarship

The Luther Daniel Parker Memorial Scholarship cements a lasting legacy of his commitment to those principles enumerated in the Auburn Creed – especially love of country and hard work. He believed in hard work, honesty and truthfulness, mutual respect, a sound body and mind, obedience to law and the human touch. But most of all, he believed in the United States of America and in serving his country.

Jed Grant Perseverance Award

The Jed Grant Perseverance Award is named in honor of Jed Grant, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and cancer survivor. Jed is a brave individual who embodied unwavering perseverance throughout his journey as a student veteran. Facing significant challenges, Jed Grant overcame obstacles and achieved personal and academic success. This award recognizes a student veteran who has demonstrated remarkable resilience, determination and the ability to overcome adversity.

Johnny Lawrence Achievement Award (Johnny Lawrence Memorial Award)

The Johnny Lawrence Achievement Award is presented to a student veteran who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in their academic pursuits, extracurricular activities and community involvement. This award honors a longtime Auburn public servant and veteran supporter, Mr. Johnny Lawrence. Johnny served almost 50 years for the Auburn and Lee County communities, advocating for local veterans and promoting their causes. His leadership led to Auburn University receiving its designation as a Purple Heart University. This award is reflective of Johnny's dedication to service before self and acknowledges the recipient's exceptional achievements.

Excellence Award

The Excellence Award is bestowed upon a student veteran who has consistently displayed exceptional academic performance, setting a high standard of excellence for their peers. This award acknowledges their commitment to knowledge, learning and intellectual growth.

Mr. Brightside Award (Josh Marshall Memorial Award)

The Mr. Brightside Award is a poignant recognition named after Josh Marshall, a member of the Auburn Student Veterans Association who tragically lost his life. Josh Marshall, a veteran of the United States Navy, was known for his optimism and positive attitude. This award is presented to a student veteran who has exemplified resilience, optimism and a positive attitude in the face of adversity. It acknowledges their ability to inspire others and spread hope, even in challenging times.



Want to Create an Annual Scholarship?

- Awarded to members of the ASVA which includes service members, dependents and gold star family members
- Opportunity to select the name of the scholarship
- Acknowledgment on ASVA website and social media
- Opportunity to present scholarship at event
- For more information, contact Kevin Couch at kmc0215@auburn.edu.

PREVIOUS

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND HONOREE



ALANNA WOLFE

Bowling Green, KY

Military Dependant - Dad is currently serving in Army, 21 years

Coach Kim Evans Initiative Award Recipient

"As a recipient of the Coach Evan's Scholarship through the Auburn Student Veterans Association, it was a pivotal moment in my academic journey. The financial support allowed me to enroll in a crucial course, significantly expanding my knowledge base and bringing me one step closer to achieving my degree at Auburn University. This scholarship not only alleviated the financial burden but also reinforced my commitment to my educational and professional goals. It has been an invaluable aid, encouraging both personal growth and academic success." - **Alanna Wolfe**

FRANZ FREISITZER

Charlottesville, VA

Navy, 6 years

Jed Grand Perseverance Award Recipient

"This scholarship has truly been a transformative blessing in my life, offering invaluable support as I navigate the unique challenges and pressures of being a non-traditional student. College itself presents formidable obstacles, and when compounded with additional responsibilities, the journey becomes even more daunting. However, scholarships like this one have an immense, life-altering impact. They alleviate burdens and provide the necessary resources to persevere and succeed.

Moreover, beyond its financial assistance, this scholarship embodies the unwavering support and solidarity of the Auburn community. It serves as a powerful symbol of the collective encouragement and motivation that propel us toward our aspirations. In the face of adversity, knowing that such a supportive network stands behind us instills a profound sense of determination and gratitude." - **Franz Freisitzer**



PREVIOUS

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND HONOREE

CLAYTON BUCHANAN

Phenix City, AL

Marine Corps, 4 years

CPT. Robert W. Hubbard Memorial Scholarship Recipient

"Receiving the scholarship from the Auburn Student Veterans Association has been profoundly impactful for me. As a non-traditional student and a Marine Corps veteran, I face many financial priorities beyond just my education. This scholarship has allowed me to address those responsibilities and cover the substantial flight fees associated with my Professional Flight major. It has provided me with much-needed peace of mind, enabling me to focus entirely on my academics without the stress of financial pressures. Without this support, I wouldn't have been able to achieve the progress I have made in my academic journey. I cannot thank the ASVA enough for the support they give all student veterans." - **Clayton Buchanan**



LUIS RAMIREZ

Woodburn, OR

Navy, 10 years

Ricardo "GUNNY" Garcia Leadership Award Recipient

"Hello, my name is Luis, and I am honored to be the recipient of the Gunnery Sergeant Ricardo Garcia Scholarship for the 2023 school year. This scholarship is very special to me because Gunny embodies hard work, determination and genuine care for others. Thanks to the generosity of donors, I can focus on my education. The impact of this scholarship extends beyond immediate financial relief and educational opportunity; it will contribute to the positive outcomes I will achieve in the future.

I first encountered the ASVA during Camp War Eagle. I wasn't sure what it was at the time, but I knew it involved veteran connections. Looking back, I'm very glad I found this organization. To me, the ASVA is more than an organization for veteran students; it has become a family away from family. As a nontraditional student who had been away from academics for a long time, starting again was challenging and a culture shock. The ASVA helped me connect with people who share similar mindsets and experiences, making it easier to bridge gaps that others might not understand. I also discovered resources that I wouldn't have known about otherwise. I highly encourage any veteran or veteran dependent to join the ASVA. College can be challenging, but you don't have to face it alone. Join the ASVA family." - **Luis Ramirez**



Veterans



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Sponsors are given the opportunity to gift gala tickets to current student veterans or active-duty military.

Red, White and Blue Table Package: \$1,800 (10 Seats Per Table)

- Opportunity to provide a veteran or active-duty military member a gala ticket
- Company logo included on program and signage
- Inclusion of company logo on invitation back cover
- Acknowledgment on ASVA website and social media
- Inclusion of the sponsor name on table centerpiece
- Special recognition as a table sponsor during ceremony

Individual Ticket: \$180

- Per person in open ballroom location

Sponsor a Scholarship: \$1,000 / \$3,000 / \$5,000 / \$10,000

- Inclusion of company logo on event signage
- Acknowledgment on ASVA website and social media

asvastore.com/gala-red-white-blue-table



**SCAN TO
PURCHASE A TABLE**

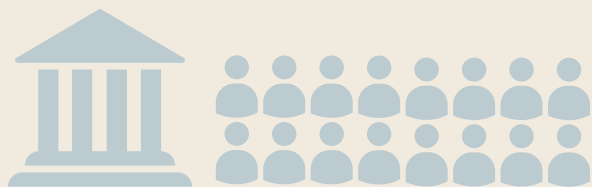
asvastore.com/gala-individual-ticket



**SCAN TO
PURCHASE A TICKET**

Marriott Reservations

ASVA has a block of rooms reserved for October 11, 2024. The room rate is \$209.00. If you wish to reserve a room, please call Marriott Reservations at **(334) 741-9292** on or before **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**. Identify yourself as part of the Auburn University ASVA Gala Room Block group.



APPROX. 400 VETERANS ATTEND
AUBURN UNIVERSITY



OF VETERANS ATTENDING
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
WORK FULL TIME



AVERAGE VETERAN GPA
AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY: 3.31



15% OF VETERANS ATTENDING
AUBURN UNIVERSITY HAVE CHILDREN

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DRESS CODE: Black Tie or Senior Dress Uniform

For More Information

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