

First To Say Thank You



Honoring our newest heroes



OCS was founded in 2009 by Dr. Kenneth Hartman, educator and former U.S. Army officer. Hartman was inspired to create OCS while serving on his county's Public Schools Board of Education, where he noticed the growing disparity between the recognition provided to students who were going college following graduation compared to the students who were choosing to serve in the Armed Services.

OCS communities have honored graduates who have committed to join all branches of the U.S. Armed Services. Since 2009, more than 40 OCS communities have developed in more than 20 states and in Puerto Rico, carrying forward the OCS mission to honor and recognize high school graduates who chose to join the 1% of Americans who currently serve in uniform.

Our Community Salutes (OCS) is a national, non-profit 501c3 organization helping communities honor and support high school seniors enlisting in the U.S. Armed Services after graduation.

We help communities provide guidance, resources and community support to high school guidance counselors, service recruiters, enlistees and to their parents as their son or daughter transition into military service.



7

Years



20

States



40

Communities



10k

Graduates



100k+

Participants

“I am proud of the people in this room here today that are stepping forward, willing to serve this country, willing to wear the uniform... you will represent the heritage, the history, the dedication and the skill that are the armed forces today.”

*Secretary of the Navy,
Ray Mabus*

OCS recognition ceremonies

have been held by communities in banquet halls, auditoriums and sports arenas from California to New York and Puerto Rico, in front of hundreds to thousands of people, a testimony to the appreciation of the young men and women of OCS entering military service.

OCS communities include families, government officials, local leaders, businesses, and active/retired military personnel coming together to recognize the importance of communities supporting young adults entering military service after graduation.



For more information, visit ourcommunitysalutes.org

“At a time when many of their peers are pursuing vocational training or college degrees, these young men and women have instead chosen to dedicate themselves to military service... It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a fractious world.”

U.S. Rep. Robert E. Andrews (NJ)



► **RECOGNITION OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS WITH THE COLIN POWELL AWARD**

Since 2010, the “Colin Powell Award,” named in honor of and approved by General Colin Powell, U.S. Army (Ret.), is a public service award presented by OCS communities to high school counselors and educators in recognition of providing guidance, counseling and mentoring for students.



► **RECOGNITION BY THE NATION'S TOP LEADERS AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS, INCLUDING:**

- Gov. Nathan Deal (GA)
- Gov. John Kasich (OH)
- U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw (FL)
- U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (VA)
- U.S. Rep. Robert Hurt (VA)
- U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (HI)
- U.S. Rep. Robert E. Andrews (NJ)
- Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus
- Acting Secretary of the Army, Patrick Murphy
- Lieutenant Governor, Kim Guadagno (NJ)
- State Sen. Joseph Abruzzo (FL)
- State Sen. Tom Croci (NY)



Tulsi Gabbard speaking at the Inaugural OCS Hawaii Recognition Ceremony .

WE THANK OUR SPONSORS AND ENCOURAGE YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP US BUILD COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE

We're proud to provide support to our communities with the help of our national and local sponsors. We thank them for making an investment and serving the needs of our military community.

Through our national program, your brand will support hundreds of communities and thousands of new enlistees, and be remembered as being among the first to say, "thank you."



CONTACT US

If you are interested in sponsorship and advertising opportunities or creating a local OCS community, contact us today.

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