

Citi Salutes Network  
Jacksonville

# The Watch

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## Jacksonville Chamber Military Luncheon

This year Jacksonville Citi Salutes member and site president, Micah Heavener was the master of ceremonies during the Jacksonville Chamber's 15th Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon held on November 6th. During this event, local business leaders host active duty service members from the local community. The Key note speaker for this years event was Rear Adm. Sean S. Buck, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command. The theme throughout the event was the strong partnership between the military and civilian community especially over the last two years with Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. RADM Buck went on to say that "The



best example in our nation of this coming together as a team is right here in the city of Jacksonville." The record number of people in attendance was a good indication of how much the military means to people in the area. Buck said the crowded room at the luncheon was another good example of how many people care about the military in

Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Citi Salutes network is proud to continue our strong partnership with the military and veteran community in Jacksonville in 2018.



## Citi of Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade

This year, the Jacksonville Citi Salutes network joined the USO for the 2017 Citi of Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade. The even took place on Saturday, November 11th at 11:01 am with the start of the route at EverBank Field and end at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. This year, 25 Citi Salutes members joined over 4000 others in this parade to honor our nation's veterans. The parade featured Jacksonville's Mayor Curry, Sheriff Mike Williams and Bataan Death March survivor Pat Ganio as the parade grand marshal. Also featured in the parade were three of Jacksonville's oldest veterans Ellis Pope, of the U.S. Navy

at age 100; Sollie Mitchell of the U.S. Army at age 99; and William Tomka, of the U.S. Army at age 99. In addition, senior military officials, active-duty and retired military units,

veterans groups, local high school marching bands, military organization, decorative floats, giant balloons and JROTC units were included. Veterans Day originally marked the anniversary of the end of World

War I, which officially took place at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. It was later expanded in 1954 to recognize the service of all veterans.

<https://Volunteers.citigroup.com>





## Citi Salutes Employee Engagement Challenge

On June 1, 2017, Citi Salutes launched the first ever CitiSalutes Employee Engagement Challenge. This Challenge was supported by the Citi Community Development team to source and invest in new local project ideas dedicated to supporting veterans in Citi's U.S. Markets. Network members were encouraged to submit proposals for projects in coordination with local veteran service and community organizations in the areas of financial education, housing, and supporting military transition into the workplace. The Challenge would then provide the winning project from each of three categories – Financial Education, Housing, Military transition/employment – with \$10,000 for development and implementation.

In early November, it was announced that one of the submissions from the Jacksonville CitiSalutes Network was the winner of \$10,000 for the Financial Education category. Quinton Carter and Jordan Alvarado teamed up with Combat2College to design a financial education program for Jacksonville veterans that we hope to continue to implement year after year. Combat2College is a local veteran's non-profit organization that runs multiple study centers at the Florida State College at Jacksonville campuses. They are focused on providing veterans with mentors and financial assistance while they are completing their undergraduate education as a part of their transition to the civilian sector. This CitiSalutes and Combat2College project consists of multiple efforts:

1. Veteran Personal Finance Handbook
  - Designed in partnership with Citi's Financial Advisors and Citi Marketing Departments
  - To be distributed by Combat2College at local university Veteran Study Centers and Community Engagement events
2. Veteran Personal Finance Presentations
  - Quarterly presentations at various locations to help answer veteran questions about personal finance differences from military to civilian life
  - Based off of the Finance Handbook
3. Veteran Scholarship and Challenge Grants
  - Providing a \$5,000 scholarship to a veteran so that they can complete their undergraduate degree
  - Providing \$250 mini grants to winners of essay challenges (TBD)
4. Finance Education Library
  - Purchasing finance related course materials to be stored at the Study Centers for use by student veterans taking those courses
5. Online Skills Development Courses
  - Combat2College will add online training courses to their website for student veterans that are members of the Combat2College organization to use
  - These courses will be designed to assist transitioning veterans in skills such as resume writing, interview techniques, personal budget management, etc.

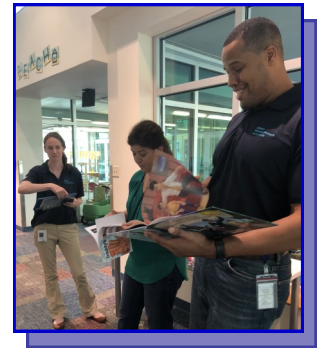


We are very excited to kickoff this project and, in fact, just completed the rough draft for the handbook. We will provide regular updates on the project status through the newsletter as things develop. If you would like to get involved with the project or with Combat2College, please reach out to Jordan Alvarado ([jordan.robert.alvarado@citi.com](mailto:jordan.robert.alvarado@citi.com)).

## Military Family Appreciation Month

As we all know, reading is fundamental to our children's development. On Friday, November 10th, members of the network steering committee had the privilege of reading to the children at the Citi Family Center in honor of Military Family Appreciation Month. This was also a great opportunity for the children to speak with military service personnel. After they explained what responsibilities and duties they had in the military, the children were able to ask questions and boy did they! Everyone had a great time. We look for-

ward to having other book readings next year to strengthen the relationship with Citi Salute Network and the Citi Family Center.



## Michele Stout, Citi Salutes Network Jacksonville Co-Chair



Michele Stout joined Citi Salutes Network in 2015 and immediately became involved in the

Events Committee. In 2016 she stepped into the Events Committee Chair Lead role. With her continued leadership, in 2018 she will be Co-Chair for the network and is looking forward to an exciting 2-year term.

Michele started her career at

Citi in January 1992. For the past 25 years she has worked within several different departments including Collection, Retention, Customer Service and Consumer Learning. From being on the phones, staffing, dialer management, supervisor role, and administrative assistant, Michele has put on several different career hats while working here at Citi.

She has a passion for event planning and ensuring that others are successful. She is extremely organized and crea-

tive. In her spare time, she spends time with the family and loves to travel. She also finds opportunity to volunteer and is a member of the 501<sup>st</sup> Legion (for those Star Wars fans).





# Message from the Steering Committee

2017 was a success for the Citi Salutes Network and it is all thanks to you!

As we end 2017, we want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Citi Salutes Network. With all your hard work and dedication to the network this year we have had one of the most successful years to date. In 2017, the network hosted 21 volunteer events, participated in 12 networking events, strengthened our relationship with 5 community partners, completed 4 network newsletters, raised almost \$15,000 in coupons to send overseas, cleaned up almost 75lbs of garbage on Naval Station Mayport and raised

\$12,700 for our community partners. It takes a lot of hard work from all of our network members to have such impressive numbers to celebrate.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was huge driver to these impressive totals as we had several busy months this quarter. In October, we held our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual meeting. We had an extremely impressive November as we volunteered with the USO No Dough Dinner, the Mission Continues Mayport Elementary School Clean up and garden planting, and read to the onsite Bright Horizons Daycare. We also participated in the City of Jacksonville Veteran's Day parade and hosted the

Veterans Day onsite event honoring Citi's Veterans with guest speaker Mike Fleming. To round out the year, in December we participated in Wreathes Across America and our newly popular Brown Bag Networking luncheon.

As we end the year on a high note we plan to grow on the excitement and achievements of 2017 and make 2018 an even more successfully year for our network. Be sure to look for opportunity in 2018 to be involve and help serve.



**Be sure to check out: [Citi Salutes Network - Jacksonville Collaborate](#) for network news, upcoming events, member storied and discussions!**

## Upcoming USO No Dough Dinners

2/28 – NAS

3/26 – Mayport

6/27 – NAS

11/19 – Mayport



## Citi Salutes Network - Jacksonville Steering Committee 2018

Business Sponsor

Co-Chair

Co-Chair

Communications Chair

Community Outreach Co-Chair

Community Outreach Co-Chair

Professional Development Chair

Membership Chair

Events Chair

Recruiting Chair

Secretary / Treasurer

Tim Aylor

Amanda Harris

Michele Stout

Katie Gilligan

Justin Barquet

Deniqua Philyaw

Charles Keller, Jr

Raymond Phillip

Robert Siddell

Mark Selak

Jordan Alvarado

For comments, suggestions or to submit your own content for publishing in an upcoming newsletter contact the Communications Chair at [kathryn.gilligan@citi.com](mailto:kathryn.gilligan@citi.com).

