



Press Release

Westchester Cadet Squadron 1
Civil Air Patrol NER-NY-048
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33 CAP Squadron members receive President's Volunteer Service Award

Scarsdale, New York-- At an awards ceremony on Friday, 26 MAY 2017, 33 members of Westchester Cadet Squadron 1 of the Civil Air Patrol received Awards from the President of the United States for their service to the community, state, and the nation. During the last year the total hours of volunteer service by squadron members was over 9,000 hours. The President's Volunteer Service Award program is the premiere nationally-recognized volunteer awards program. It honors those who choose to live a life of service to others.

During the ceremony, the honorees were presented with Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medals, certificates honoring their service, and letters from the President on White House stationery. Awards are made to three groups based on their cumulative hours of service: young teens, young adults, and adults.

Receiving President's Volunteer Bronze Medals for their service were: C/SSgt Sam Lapine, C/TSgt Conor McNulty, C/Capt Stephanie Walls, 2dLt Charles Chu, Lt Col Edmund Donovan, 2dLt Sean Hull, Major Steven Kahaner, Flight Officer Vera Muntean, 2dLt Jennifer Moon-Kozlowski, and 1stLt Jude Stenson.

Receiving President's Volunteer Silver Medals for their service were: C/2dLt Michael Cali, C/TSgt Lauren Mitchell, C/CMSgt August Rodriguez, and Lt Col Thomas Vreeland.

Receiving President's Volunteer Gold Medals for their service were: C/MSgt Justin Cales, C/2dLt Lucas Chu, C/CMSgt Adam DeLitta, C/MSgt Jadon Ferrance, C/CMSgt Francesco Giordano, C/SSgt Rachel Guzman-Jones, C/2dLt Alejandro Kahaner, C/CMSgt Drew Kozlowski, C/SMSgt Rishabh Kumar, C/SMSgt Pietro Lisanti, C/MSgt Finnian McHale, C/CMSgt Julian Navarro, C/TSgt Sean O'Meara, C/Lt Col Alexander Presley, C/SrA Isabelle Rodriguez, and C/2dLt William Walls.

Special presentations were made to three members of the squadron whose volunteer service commitments were especially noteworthy. C/2dLt Emily Murray received a President's Volunteer Gold Medal with distinction for the greatest number of hours served by any cadet: 486 hours. Two adult officers also received President's Volunteer Gold Medals with distinction and framed certificates and Presidential letters. Captain Katherine Torres, the Squadron Commander, and First Lieutenant Harry Torres, each had total volunteer service last year of 979 hours.

Westchester Cadet Squadron 1 serves Southern Westchester and conducts aerospace education programs, ground and airborne emergency services support, and leadership and character development programs for young people. The unit has a high operational tempo and is currently recruiting new cadet members from 12-18, and adults from 18 years of age. It meets on Friday evenings from 7 to 9:30 pm at the American Legion Hall at 40 Bell Road in Scarsdale, New York. Visitors are always welcome. More information on the squadron can be found at www.westcadets.org

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 78 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol's 56,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its members additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Performing missions for America for the past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is the premier volunteer awards program, encouraging citizens to live a life of service through presidential gratitude and national recognition. An Individuals Hours are measured over a 12-month period and awards are designated based on cumulative hours. The awards are offered in multiple levels and are designed to recognize each milestone of your service achievement. (www.presidentialserviceawards.gov)



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PHOTO ATTACHMENT:



Photo by 2dLt Jennifer Moon-Koslowski

Squadron members receiving their President's Volunteer Service Awards. In total, the members of Westchester Cadet Squadron 1 committed a total of over 9,000 hours of volunteer service to the community, state, and nation, over the last year.

From left to right (back row): 1stLt Jude Stenson, 1stLt Harry Torres, C/LtCol Alex Presley, C/2dLt Michael Cali, C/2dLt Lucas Chu, C/TSgt Sean O'Meara, Lt Col Thomas Vreeland, 2dLt Charles Chu, C/CMSgt August Rodriguez, 2dLt Sean Hull, Major Steven Kahaner, Captain Katherine Torres. From left to right (middle row): C/CMSgt Drew Kozlowski, C/MSgt Finnian McHale, C/Capt Stephanie Walls, C/SrA Isabella Rodriguez, C/CMSgt Adam DeLitta, C/TSgt Lauren Mitchell. From left to right (front row): C/CMSgt Alejandro Giordano, C/2dLt William Walls, C/SMSgt Rishabh Kumar, and C/MSgt Jadon Ferrance.



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Squadron Commander and Assistant Deputy Commander receiving their President's Volunteer Service Award Gold Medals with special distinction. These two very committed officers, together, volunteered a total of over 1900 hours of service in Civil Air Patrol to their community, state, and nation, over the last year.

From left to right): Captain Katherine Torres, Squadron Commander, and husband 1st Lt Harry Torres.