



U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE MILITARY ASSOCIATION



Fall 2026

Operation 85: Turning Determination into a Historic Mission of Honor

By Angela Jenkins, UMA Editor

What began as frustration has become one of the most remarkable identification efforts in recent memory. Operation 85 was born from a deep personal loss and a firm belief that the unknown crew members buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific did not have to remain unidentified forever. When Kevin Kline, Executive Director of Operation 85, learned that no formal plan existed to identify the unknown USS Arizona crew members buried at Punchbowl in Hawaii, he saw not an obstacle, but a mission. As the great-nephew of GM2c Robert Edwin Kline, who was killed aboard the USS Arizona on December 7, 1941, Kevin felt a strong responsibility to act. His great-uncle's remains, like those of more than 1,000 shipmates, were never recovered.

A mission born from frustration — and love

At the time, government officials reportedly described the effort as too time-consuming, too costly, and too resource-intensive to pursue. But Kevin believed those concerns were not reasons to give up — they were reasons to find a better way. With no roadmap, no guaranteed outcome, and no initial government backing, he began reaching out to families one by one. He told the story of the sailors and marines still resting miles from Pearl Harbor and asked relatives whether they would be willing to donate DNA to help bring names back to the unknown. What seemed overwhelming to others felt possible to him. Operation 85 needed DNA from 60 percent of the missing crew before the project could move forward, and at the outset there were only about 25 samples on file. In just two and a half years, Kevin and his team reached the required threshold of 643 samples.



USS Arizona Memorial
Photo from pearl-harbor.info



GM2c Robert Edwin Kline, USN who was killed aboard the USS Arizona Dec 7, 1941
Photo provided by Kevin Kline



"Operation 85" continued from previous page

Operation 85: A name with purpose

The name "Operation 85" carries special meaning. Initially, Kevin believed there were 85 unidentified crew members buried in the cemetery. Later research showed there were 86, and possibly more, though the original name remained. It also reflected his goal of achieving meaningful progress by the 85th anniversary of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 2026. In that sense, the name became both a tribute and a deadline — a symbol of honor, persistence, and hope.

The human stories behind the mission

Along the way, Kevin encountered stories that made the mission even more personal. He spoke with brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren of the fallen, many of whom were still carrying grief decades later. Some were in their 90s, yet their memories were vivid and their emotions immediate. One brother told Kevin that December 7, 1941, was the day he and his sibling became orphans. That sentiment stayed with him. Other families shared what Kevin described as generational grief — a sense of loss passed down through the years, often felt even by those who never knew the service member who died aboard the Arizona. One family member recalled how Christmas was always marked by sadness in her home, even as a child, only later realizing that the grief was tied to the loss of a relative in the attack on Pearl Harbor. These conversations revealed that the impact of the tragedy did not end in 1941. For many families, it has continued across generations.

What also stood out to Kevin was the overwhelming willingness of families to participate. Over the course of the effort, Operation 85 connected with roughly 1,600 to 1,700 family members, and only about 10 declined to provide DNA or participate. Some said no for religious reasons, some expressed distrust of government, and others simply did not wish to be involved. Still, the support was extraordinary. Kevin said he never knew how families would react when he called them out of the blue to explain who he was and what he was asking. Yet most were receptive, and many confirmed his message by researching the organization and reading the press coverage for themselves. That trust became one of the strongest forces behind the mission's success.

Reaching the Impossible Threshold

Now that the DNA threshold has been surpassed, the focus has shifted toward honoring the crew members and ensuring every possible identification can be made. The upcoming December 7, 2026 disinterment ceremony is expected to be a historic moment. More than 600 family members are already planning to attend, along with dignitaries, military leaders, and members of the press. To accommodate the growing number of attendees, the ceremony has been moved to Kilo Pier at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The new location will provide a striking backdrop of the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri.

"Operation 85" continued from previous page



[Operation 85 Logo](#)
Photo by Kevin Kline



USS Arizona Memorial
Photo by pearl-harbor.info



Kevin Kline holding great uncle's Purple Heart
Photo provided by Kevin Kline

Kevin acknowledged that pushing a large federal effort forward as a private citizen came with significant challenges. Still, he views the difficult moments as part of the process. He said there were many battles with bureaucracy and many frustrations along the way, but he prefers to focus on the outcome rather than dwell on the setbacks. As he put it, sometimes it takes persistence — even a little noise — to move things forward. His message is simple: the crew members and their families came first, and the results speak for themselves.

Looking beyond Pearl Harbor, Operation 85 has also become an official partner of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, with a broader mission to help identify unknown American service members buried around the world. Kevin emphasized that there are still approximately



"Operation 85" continued from previous page

7,8000 unknowns worldwide and that success depends on finding new and effective ways to connect families with the opportunity to submit DNA. The organization encourages the public to help by sharing its story, connecting with families who may have missing service members, and supporting the effort through donations.

Operation 85 is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, and Kevin believes that greater awareness can help bring more names home by visiting their website --

[**www.USSArizona.navy.**](http://www.USSArizona.navy.)

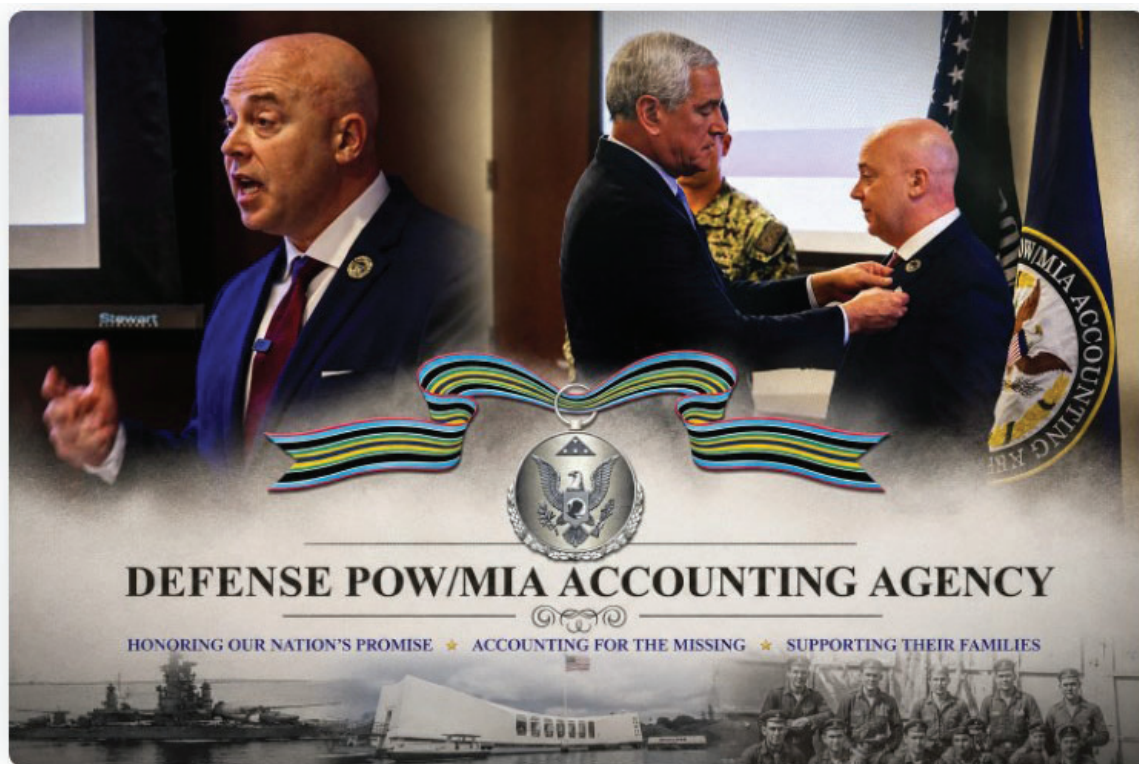
How USPTO UMA Employees and the community can help

For the USPTO community, the story carries an added connection. Operation 85 is a proud customer of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Its official logo is trademarked, and its slogan, "UNKNOWN NO MORE," is currently pending trademark approval. For Kevin, that connection reinforces the organization's identity and its long-term mission.

More importantly, it reflects a message that has guided the entire effort from the beginning: no one should remain forgotten if there is a way to restore their name, their identity, and their place in history.

As the 85th anniversary of Pearl Harbor approaches, Operation 85 stands as a powerful example of what can happen when determination meets purpose. What started as one family member's frustration became a national mission of honor, supported by thousands of families, and sustained by a belief that even the most difficult challenges can be overcome. Thanks to Kevin Kline and the many people who joined him, the unknown crew members of the USS Arizona are finally on the path to being known again.

They will be unknown no more.



Kevin Kline Speaks at DPAA Headquarters - Receives Superior Public Service Award Medal
Photo from Operation 85 website

Reggie Calhoun Jr. at USPTO Hour

By Dean Dominique, *UMA past President*



Reggie Calhoun Jr.
Photos from USPTO Facebook site

The USPTO Military Association welcomed Reggie Calhoun Jr. on July 14. As the University of Colorado's Director of Football NIL/Revenue Sharing, Calhoun brought diverse perspectives—from navigating college athletics' NIL revolution to his Louisiana National Guard deployment after Hurricane Katrina and his unique experiences alongside "Coach Prime." Calhoun recently participated in a panel with Director Squires at the special USPTO Hour during the 2026 NFL Draft.



Reggie Calhoun Jr. speaks at USPTO Hour
Photos from Dean Dominique



Remembering September 11: Honoring Lives, Service, and Sacrifice

By Angela Jenkins, *UMA Editor*



Photo SI generated from Adobe Stock

Each year, September 11 calls us to pause, reflect, and remember. It is a day forever marked by profound loss, grief, courage, and unity. We remember the innocent lives taken, the families forever changed, and the first responders, service members, and everyday Americans who responded with extraordinary bravery in the face of tragedy.

On this day, we honor not only those we lost, but also the resilience that emerged in the aftermath. The memory of 9/11 remains a solemn reminder of how deeply a single day can shape a nation and how important it is to carry forward the stories of those who perished, those who served, and those who continue to live with the impact of that day.

For the USPTO community, especially our veterans, 9/11 carries a deeply personal meaning. Many who have served in uniform were forever changed by the events of that day and the years that followed. Their continued dedication to service, both in and out of government, reflects the enduring spirit of sacrifice and commitment that 9/11 brought into sharp focus.

As we reflect, may we do so with humility, gratitude, and care. May we remember the names, faces, and lives behind the numbers. May we honor the families who carry this loss every day. And may we renew our commitment to compassion, unity, and service to one another.

Who We Are

The USPTO Military Association (UMA) is a USPTO voluntary employee organization and 501(c)(3) non-profit charity with a mission to provide fellowship, mentorship, and support for military veterans working at the USPTO and to help educate others on the important contributions that veterans have made—and continue to make—to the workforce and our nation. Membership is open to everyone and military service is not required. Contact the UMA for more information or to join (it only takes one short form) at uma@uspto.gov.

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The Scuttlebutt is produced through volunteer hours and may include stories, links, and references not directly connected to the UMA, but which may be of interest to our veteran community. If you have questions or comments about any of the newsletter content, please contact us at uma@uspto.gov. We appreciate feedback as we strive to offer the best possible

Dallas UMA Members Bring the Energy: A Saturday of Camaraderie, Fun, and Connection

By Keith Delahoussaye, *UMA Vice President*

I would be remiss if I did not mention the recent Dallas UMA gathering in our last edition. Fortunately, I can make up for that now by sharing some highlights from a fantastic Saturday morning outing that brought together UMA members, spouses, and colleagues for a memorable time of fellowship and fun.

The group kicked off the morning at the indoor shooting range, Target Master, where UMA members and their spouses gathered for an exciting and engaging experience. The event was made even more special thanks to Josh and Sara, who generously provided the weapons and ammunition used during the outing. Their support helped set the tone for what turned out to be a truly great day.

The fun, however, did not stop there. Later, Sara and Hope headed to a bar called Redeo Cold, where they were joined by UMA member Joshua Sweet, adding even more energy to an already enjoyable day. It was the perfect way to continue the camaraderie and celebrate the strength of the UMA community.

- Sara Brown, who also serves as the SW Worklife President and Southwest representative for PTOS
- Aaron Ho, who also serves as the SW Worklife Treasurer
- Hope Shimabuku, the Southwest Regional Outreach Office Regional Director
- Reynaldo (Rey) Vasquez, who serves as the Interim Assistant Director for the SWROO as well as the Outreach Coordinator
- And of course, several of the attendees are dedicated patent examiners, including members of this strong and supportive group

A special note of appreciation goes to the members and spouses who participated and helped make the outing such a success. From the indoor range to the social gathering afterward, the day was filled with laughter, connection, and the kind of fellowship that makes UMA such a valuable community.



"Dallas Fun "continued from previous page



UMA Member Reynaldo Vasquez and Keith Delahoussaye
Photo by Keith Delahoussaye



UMA Members Sara Brown, Aaron Ho, Keith Delahoussaye,
Ryan Falkner, and Hope Shimabuku
Photo by Keith Delahoussaye



UMA Member Mrs. Delahoussaye



UMA Member Keith and Sara
and Juan Brown





UMA Members
Joshua Sweet, Sara & Juan Brown, Schquita
Goodwin, and Keith Delahoussaye
Photos from Keith Delahoussaye





Anchors Aweigh for LT Jesse and Na Samluk!

By **Angela Jenkins**, *UMA Editor*

UMA member LT Jesse Samluk and Na Samluk celebrated their wedding on September 19, 2026, at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Family and friends gathered to share in their special day and celebrate the beginning of their new journey together.

Please join us in congratulating the newlyweds and wishing them a lifetime of happiness, love, and smooth sailing!



Photo provided by Jesse Samluk



2Lt Nicholas Dominique Selected for Space Force's Guardian Arena IV

By Dean Dominique, *UMA past President*



Dean Dominique and his son, U.S. Space Force 2Lt Nicholas Dominique
Photo from Dean Dominique

U.S. Space Force Second Lieutenant Nicholas Dominique, son of UMA member Dean Dominique, has been selected to participate in Guardian Arena IV. Following a grueling tryout in August, Dominique earned a place on Delta 1's Team B, where he will compete alongside First Lieutenant Caleb Rillos and Captain Cody Chamberlain.

Guardian Arena IV brings together teams from across the Space Force to test their physical strength, academic knowledge, tactical abilities, and problem-solving skills. The competition is designed to challenge participants while developing the readiness, resilience and teamwork required of Guardians.

The demanding selection process in August prepared Dominique for the intensity of the event ahead. His successful tryout reflects the discipline, determination and commitment required to compete at this level. As a

member of Delta 1's Team B, he will represent his unit while working with his teammates to meet the challenges of Guardian Arena IV.

Guardian Arena competitions include an academic challenge, the tactical event known as "Guardian Strike," and numerous physical and problem-solving stations. Competitors will be required to demonstrate strength and endurance, make decisions under pressure, adapt to changing circumstances, and work effectively as a team.

Although Guardian Arena is physically demanding, its purpose extends beyond individual athletic performance. Space Force leaders have described the event as an opportunity to strengthen operational readiness and build team cohesion. The competition emphasizes the importance of innovation, adaptability and performing under pressure—qualities essential to success in a dynamic space environment.





"2Lt Nicholas Dominique" continued from previous page

Teamwork is central to the event. Previous competitors and Space Force leaders have emphasized that success depends not simply on having the strongest individual athletes, but on how effectively teammates combine their abilities and support one another.

Dominique's selection for Guardian Arena IV is a significant accomplishment and a source of pride for his family, Delta 1 and the UMA community. After completing the rigorous August tryout, he now joins Team B with the opportunity to challenge himself, contribute to his teammates, and represent himself and his unit in one of the Space Force's premier competitions.



Photo from SpaceForce Facebook

Congratulations

UMA Member Shares 9/11 Reflections with Oakton High School Students

By Dean Dominique, *UMA past President*

Retired U.S. Army Major and former UMA President Dean Dominique continues to serve his country through his work at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and through his commitment to educating the next generation. On September 11, Dean visited Oakton High School to speak with students about the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and to reflect on his experiences in the Army.

The visit was held in partnership with The 9:57 Project, a nonprofit organization that connects military veterans with students and educators. The organization seeks to carry forward the legacy of the 40 passengers and crew members aboard

United Airlines Flight 93, who resisted the hijacking of their plane on 9/11. Their actions led to the aircraft crashing near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, before it could reach its intended target, which is widely believed to have been either the U.S. Capitol or the White House.

The 9:57 Project takes its name from 9:57 a.m., the time when the passengers and crew of Flight 93 began their counterattack. The organization describes this moment as an example of courage and leadership in action. The “Spirit of 9:57” is intended to inspire the next generation to embrace an ethos rooted in Courage, Resilience, Empowerment, Service, and Teamwork (C.R.E.S.T.).

During the Oakton High School visit, Dominique joined retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Rogers “Roge” Stinson Jr., his mentor through The 9:57 Project. Dominique, an international program specialist in the USPTO’s International Outreach and Administration Office, and Stinson discussed the significance of 9/11, the attack’s lasting impact on the nation, and the importance of remembering the people who sacrificed their lives in service to others.

The two veterans also shared stories from their military careers, giving students a personal perspective on service, leadership, and the responsibilities that accompany both. Their discussion connected the history of 9/11 with lived experiences and demonstrated how lessons from that day can continue to inform the choices of future generations.

Students responded with thoughtful questions about military service, leadership, resilience,



Photo from Dean Dominique



"9/11 Refelctions" continued from previous page

and civic responsibility. By placing the events of 9/11 in the context of personal experience, Dominique and Stinson helped students consider the human dimensions of a historical event that continues to shape the nation's memory.

The 9:57 Project's mission is to connect veterans with young people while perpetuating the values and legacy of Flight 93. Its programs include classroom visits, student-centered curricular materials, experiential learning trips to the Flight 93 National Memorial, and the student led Operation CREST podcast, which preserves veterans' experiences through the Library of Congress.



Photo from Project 9:57 website



2026 UMA Scholarship Recipient: Taylor Baker

By Angela Jenkins, UMA Editor



Photo from Taylor Baker

The United Military Association (UMA) is pleased to recognize Taylor Baker, recipient of the 2026 UMA Scholarship. Taylor earned a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the NYU Tandon School of Engineering and is now pursuing a Master of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Her academic journey reflects a strong connection between engineering and design. While engineering taught her how structures stand, architecture has expanded her perspective on how buildings and spaces can inspire communities, promote resilience, and support a more sustainable future.

Taylor's graduate program combines rigorous technical study with creative exploration. The UMA scholarship will help offset the costs of essential academic materials, resources, and 3D printing—expenses that support her architectural coursework and design projects.

Taylor is especially interested in developing architectural solutions to environmental challenges. Her long-term goal is to become a licensed architect specializing in sustainable, high-performance buildings that are structurally sound, environmentally responsible, and beneficial to the communities they serve.

Inspired by her father's military career, Taylor values discipline, perseverance, and service. She is grateful for the UMA's support and for the opportunity to pursue a career dedicated to serving both people and the planet.

The UMA congratulates Taylor on this achievement and wishes her continued success in her graduate studies and future architectural career.



Presidential Ingenuity: Four Leaders Who Shaped American Innovation

By Ephraim Blair, UMA Youth Communications Apprentice



Photo generated by SI Adobe Stock

Presidential Inventors

Innovation is deeply embedded in the American spirit. In fact, the United States was the first country in all of history whose founding documents explicitly empowered the government to issue patents "to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts." Like the Framers of the Constitution, several of our presidents have been inventors in their own right. Here are just a few:



Photo generated by SI Adobe Stock

"President Inventors" continued from previous page

George Washington

Before the official formation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in 1836, presidents had to approve and sign each patent individually. After signing the Patent Act of 1790, Washington personally signed 156 patents during his two terms in office. Though he never held a patent himself, our first president was also an inventor. "Washington considered himself first and foremost a farmer," and to make his wheat production more efficient, he designed what is widely considered one of the first centric barns. Because it was almost impossible to build a perfect circle in the 1790s, Washington gave the barn 16 outer sides so horses could walk comfortably in a circle and process the grain. The barn was also designed to protect the wheat from the weather and thieves.

Thomas Jefferson

Our third president and author of the Declaration was by far the most prolific presidential inventor. Like Washington,

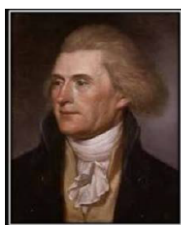
Jefferson was also a farmer. He invented the "mouldboard of least resistance," which greatly increased the efficiency and speed of plowing. As secretary of state, he invented the wheel cipher "to encode and decode" messages to allow for American diplomats to communicate more securely with one another internationally. He also created improved versions of various inventions, including a pedometer, a machine for making macaroni pasta, a great clock, a lap desk on which he wrote the Declaration of Independence, and a pantograph for copying drawings. But my favorite of all of his inventions is the swivel chair, which he created in 1775 while he was a delegate to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

James Madison

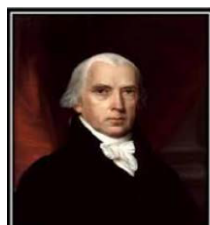
Known as the Father of the Constitution, James Madison was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and was one of the strongest proponents of the intellectual property clause that ultimately made it into the final draft. But he was also an inventor and an avid botanist, inventing a walking stick with a built-in



Washington



Jefferson



Madison

Photo from Google.com



UMA Youth Communications Apprentice Ephraim Blair, son of April and Jeffrey Blair, is a high school junior in Bethesda, Md. Ephraim was born in Walter Reed Military Hospital and his father was a Navy active duty medical officer. He is interested in history, politics, and economics. He loves activities such as reading, writing, debating, and playing golf. He is planning on pursuing a career in law and politics.



"President Inventors" continued from previous page

Abraham Lincoln

Before he became our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln wore many hats as a railsplitter, lawyer, store clerk, ferryboat operator, and inventor. Lincoln was a strong supporter of American innovation, calling the USPTO and U.S. Patent System "the fuel of interest to the fire of genius." During the Civil War, he extended the length of patents to 17 years and oversaw an unprecedented expansion in the number of patents granted. During his time in office, the USPTO had the largest building of any federal agency, extending

an entire city block. Furthermore, the building was used for his second inaugural ball in March 1865 and housed a museum on its second floor. Among the museum's exhibits was a model of "a device for 'buoying vessels over shoals.'" The idea for the invention came from his time working as a boatman on the Mississippi River when he "was stranded twice on riverboats that had run aground." Though he never actually manufactured his invention, he proudly showed the design off for the rest of his life and patented it in 1849 (Patent No. 6,469), making him the only president with a patented invention.

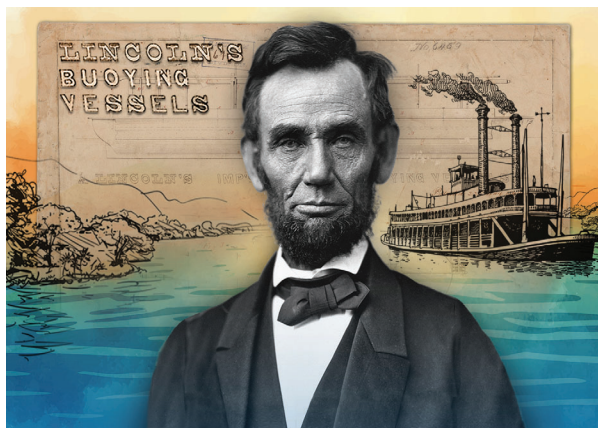


Photo from USPTO website

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Veteran Highlight: Janice Jackson—A Story of Resilience and Service

Janice Jackson, UMA Member & Scrum Master

Janice Jackson's journey is a powerful example of how service, perseverance, and resilience can shape a life. From humble beginnings, she joined the United States Army at age 26, serving on active duty and later in the Army Reserve as an Automated Logistics Specialist.



Photo from Janice Jackson

On September 11, 2001, Janice was at the Pentagon—less than 75 feet from where the aircraft struck the building. She sustained serious injuries, including second- and third-degree burns, and faced a long road of recovery. Yet, through determination and strength, she continued moving forward, carrying the lessons of military service into her education, Federal career, and commitment to others.

Today, Janice serves as a Scrum Master at the USPTO and remains an active member of the USPTO United Military Association. Her story demonstrates that service does not end when the uniform comes off—it continues through leadership, teamwork, accountability, and a commitment to helping others.

Read Janice Jackson's full story on the USPTO Military Association website and learn how resilience became her greatest strength. [USPTO Military Association](#)





UMA Game Night Celebrates Competition, Camaraderie, and Community

By Angela Jenkins, UMA Editor

The USPTO Military Association (UMA) hosted an engaging esports game night on July 23, bringing members together for an evening of friendly competition and fellowship.

Participants enjoyed six gaming stations featuring popular video games, along with a variety of board games. The event highlighted UMA's commitment to creating opportunities for veterans and the broader USPTO community to connect, have fun, and build camaraderie.

The evening featured tournaments in Mario Kart and Street Fighter IV. UMA member Hank MacDonald congratulated the Mario Kart winners, including BigBoy237 from Technology Center 3653, who celebrated a well-earned victory. Participants also recognized the champions of the inaugural Street Fighter IV competition.



The successful event demonstrated the enthusiasm and community spirit of UMA members and guests. UMA thanks everyone who participated and helped make game night a memorable occasion.



Photo generated from SI Adobe Stock

“Game Night” continued from previous page



Photo from Hank MacDonald
UMA 1



Photo from Hank MacDonald
UMA 2



Photo from Hank MacDonald
UMA 3



Photo from Hank MacDonald
UMA 4

- UMA-1 : UMA Member Hank MacDonald proudly congratulates the winners of the Mario Kart Tournament.
- UMA-2: Cheers to the winners of the first Street Fighter IV tournament!
- UMA-3: BigBoy237 from TC 3653 celebrating his victory at the Mario Kart Tournament.
- UMA-4: UMA member Hank MacDonald with the champions of the inaugural Street Fighter IV competition.





Honoring 251 Years of U.S. Navy Service

By Angela Jenkins, *UMA Editor*

On Tuesday, October 13, 2026, the United States Navy will celebrate its 251st birthday—commemorating the day in 1775 when the Continental Congress authorized the creation of the nation's first naval forces.

Although the birthday was celebrated on October 27—the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt—from 1922 through 1972, the Navy returned to its original October 13 observance in 1972.

Today, Navy Birthday events bring together Sailors, veterans, families, and supporters to reflect on the service's proud heritage and its continuing role in defending the United States.

For more than two centuries, the Navy has served on, beneath, and above the seas, protecting the nation's interests and supporting missions around the world. This year's celebration will highlight the service's enduring commitment through the theme:

"Unwavering Vigilance, Unmatched Lethality"

The Navy Birthday is more than an anniversary. It is an opportunity to honor the generations of Sailors who have answered the call to serve, remember the sacrifices made in defense of the nation, and recognize the families and communities who support them.

As the Navy marks 251 years of service, the celebration invites everyone to reflect on its history while looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the future. Through unwavering vigilance and unmatched capability, the Navy continues its longstanding mission: safeguarding the nation and maintaining freedom of the seas.

Happy 251st Birthday to the United States Navy!



U.S. NAVY
BIRTHDAY

Photo generated from SI Adobe Stock



Headline highlights: A look at news affecting veterans

Transition & Records Share Executive Order: On September 8, 2026, President Trump signed the ["Accelerating Access to Veterans' Benefits and Employment Opportunities"] (1.2.12, 1.3.10) executive order. It mandates that the Departments of War and Veterans Affairs automatically share Official Military Personnel Files and Service Treatment Records upon discharge, utilizes SI-assisted benefits application tools, and overhauls transition employment programs.

Shift in Care Performance Metrics: In October 2026, VA Secretary Doug Collins announced at the Military Influencer Conference that the VA is fundamentally changing how it measures healthcare performance, pivoting away from tracking mere wait times to heavily focusing on the actual quality of care received.

Stricter Mental Health Medication Rules: On September 28, 2026, the VA issued updated guidance regarding psychotropic medications. Starting in 2027, veterans will face stricter patient education and signed informed consent requirements before being co-prescribed opioids and benzodiazepines, or before an antidepressant can be prescribed to any veteran under 30.

Suicide Prevention Funding: In late September 2026, alongside releasing its annual suicide prevention data, the VA awarded \$112 million in Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention grants to 191 community organizations nationwide to expand local veteran support systems.



Military Retiree Newsletters



[Army
Echoes
Newsletter](#)



[Air Force
Afterburner](#)



[Coast Guard
The Long Blue](#)



[Navy Shist Colors 2](#)

[Marine Corps New
web-link](#)



[DFAS newsletter](#)



Veteran resources and contacts

USPTO Veteran Hiring Program Manager: HireVets@uspto.gov

USPTO OHR Military Service Time Buy Back Contact: HumanResources_USPTO@uspto.gov

BenefitsquestionsforcurrentReservists: BenefitsTeam@uspto.gov

[Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Information](#)

[GI Bill](#)

[Defense Finance and Accounting Service](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[Combat-Related Special Compensation](#)

[Veterans Service Records](#)

[Suicide and Crisis Line](#): Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org

Save the Date

October 13 - U.S. Navy Birthday

October 20 - Knox Conference Center @ 11:00 Neal Miskell

October 26 - Day of the Deployed

November - National Military Family Month & Warrior Care Month

November 5 - UMA Veterans Day Program**

November 10 - U.S. Marine Corps Birthday

November 11 - Veterans Day

December 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December TBD - Quarterly Meeting/Award Ceremony

Dec 13 - National Guard Birthday

Dec 16 - VEO Holiday Soiree

December 20 - Space Force Birthday

December 20 - Wreaths Across America