

# TPI

The Patriot Informer

## End of Year Awards Ceremony

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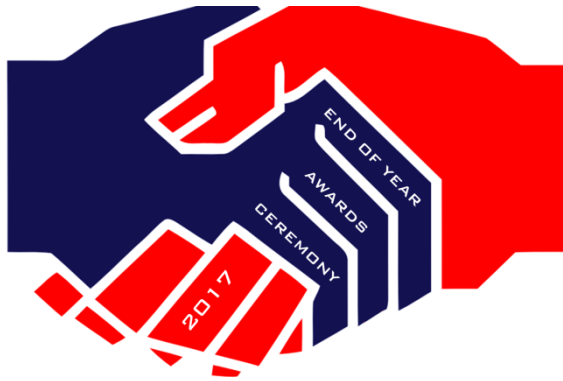
## Seniors' Page

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- HONOR
- REMEMBER
- EXPLORE



**END OF YEAR AWARD CEREMONY**  
 Tuesday, May 9th | 7:00 PM | Governor Thomas Johnson High School



## LETTER FROM THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dear Fellow Cadets and Parents:

It has been a great honor to serve the unit for the past year, first as the Assistant to the Public Affairs and then as the Public Affairs Officer. I have enjoyed being part of this dynamic organization to see and to help it grow. Crafting monthly newsletters is not an easy task, especially when it comes to designing the cover page, collecting materials, putting everything in place, and beating the deadline. I am grateful I have all of you at my back. During the course of my job, I have got to know so many of you, your stories, your ambitions and your achievements, all of which deserve recognition and accolades. I thank you for inspiring me to work hard and to be the best I can be.

As the school year comes to an end, I would like to take the moment to thank Chief Rodrigues and Col Lyon for their support and trust and for giving me the opportunity to serve. I would also like to thank those parents and cadets who have provided me with photos, team news and interview responses. Without your help, I wouldn't have been able to craft the newsletters.

I hope you all enjoy reading the newsletters. Please feel free to send your letters, photos, thoughts and suggestions to [monocacyx1@gmail.com](mailto:monocacyx1@gmail.com). Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Robert Xu

MAY 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
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## NEWS

### END OF YEAR AWARD CEREMONY

The Patriot NJROTC unit will be hosting an awards ceremony on Tuesday, **May 9<sup>th</sup>** from 1900-2030 at Governor Thomas Johnson High School Auditorium to present annual awards and change of cadet command. Please join us for this special occasion. After the ceremony, there will be refreshments in the cafeteria.

If any of you cadets would like to help with the setup and cleanup, the sign-up sheet is posted in Chief's Room.

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### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer opportunities for May - Sign-up sheets are posted in Chief's room. For questions, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Chris Henry at [cmh62@comcast.net](mailto:cmh62@comcast.net).

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** - Antietam National Cemetery - Headstone Cleaning

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** - Racine Athletics, Ft. Ritchie

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### UNIFORM RETURN

For those of you who are graduating seniors, please return your cleaned uniforms including dress blues and accessories (shoes, caps, belts, swords, etc.) to Chief by **May 9<sup>th</sup>**.

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### SUMMER MINI BOOT CAMP, CAMP MOUNTAINEER, WV

Looking for some exciting and challenging experience in the summer? The Mini Boot Camp from **July 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>** is open to all cadets (except the seniors). Sign-up sheet is posted in Chief's Room. Cost: \$355.

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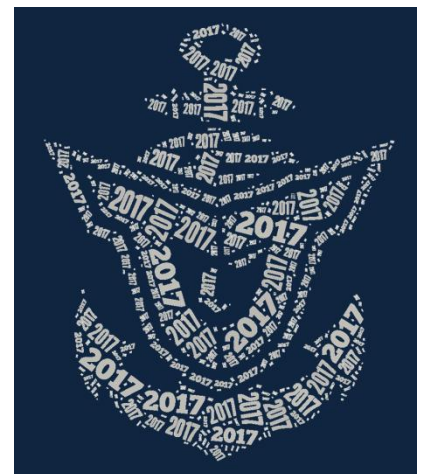
### 2016-2017 NJROTC YEARBOOK ORDER

The NJROTC Yearbook Committee is compiling its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual yearbook. Photos of individual cadets, team activities, military ball, etc. are all featured on it. The order deadline is now extended to **May 10<sup>th</sup>**.

All orders placed by May 10<sup>th</sup> will be shipped to school. After the order deadline, your order will be shipped directly to your home with a shipping charge.

For questions, please contact our Yearbook Coordinator Hongwei Xu at [hwxu@comcast.net](mailto:hwxu@comcast.net).

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# PHOTO GALLERY



Patriot Orienteering Team competed at a national orienteering competition at West Point, NY on April 22-23, 2017. They also visited the Statue of Liberty and Times Squares in New York City,



Volunteers for Racine Multisports



Cadets spent a day at Arlington National Cemetery, walking through the cemetery, wandering through the headstones and monuments, watching the change of guard, and paying tribute to the fallen heroes. Additional photos can be found in the 2016-2017 NJROTC Yearbook and Shutterfly on our website.



## SENIORS' PAGE

In this section of the newsletter, we introduce three of our seniors [Justin Kunz](#), [Samantha Buckman](#) and [Eddie Garcia](#), one with a dream to become a pilot, one a lawyer, and one a Marine.

If any of you would like to share your stories in the future issues, please contact [Robert Xu](#) at [monocacyx1@gmail.com](mailto:monocacyx1@gmail.com).



*Cadet Eddie Garcia* is a senior from Governor Thomas Johnson High School (GTJHS). He said he joined Patriot NJROTC in 2015 because "it would be a great opportunity" for him to develop his citizenship and leadership skills. Currently, Garcia is in Naval Science 2 class and a squad leader. According to him, his best memory of Patriot NJROTC is the weekly physical training. He enjoys running and likes to challenge himself to do the workout.

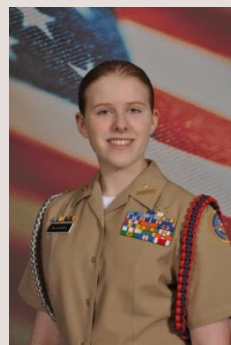
In addition to Patriot NJROTC where he was once a member of Drill Team briefly, Garcia does wrestling at GTJHS. Having already enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, he plans to become a Marine after graduating from high school.



*Cadet Justin Kunz* is a senior from Tuscarora High School (THS). He joined Patriot NJROTC in 2015 because he loves the military and has been in the program for two years. Currently, Kunz is the Assistant Public Affairs Officer, helping with Open House and media outreach. His best memory of Patriot NJROTC is "being able to attend the National NJROTC Orienteering competition in Seattle, Washington."

In addition to Patriot NJROTC where he is part of the Orienteering Team (2 years), he swims for THS (4 years) and Robin Meadows Racers Summer Swim League (6 years). He also participates in Boy Scouts of America (7 years), Venture Crew (4 years), and the THS Chess Club (4 years). After high school, Kunz plans to attend Liberty University to study Aeronautical Sciences and then transfer to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and possibly join the NJROTC program. He wishes to become a pilot in the future.

For all high school students, he advises them to "join ROTC – it's so much fun and worth the effort!"



*Cadet Samantha Buckman* is a senior from Linganore High School (LHS). She joined NJROTC with a "desire to try something different" and "to try out teams and sports" that she had never heard of before. Currently, Buckman is the company Commanding Officer (C/O). With regard to her greatest contribution to the unit as C/O, she said her efforts are joint ones with other cadet staff. Her best memories of the program are the field trips, especially the one to San Diego for the NJROTC Orienteering National Championships.

In addition to Patriot NJROTC where she was a member of Rifle Team (2 years), Orienteering Team (3 years) and Drill Team (4 years), Buckman has participated in many activities such as Model UN, World Scholar's Cup, Girl Scouts, Hap Ki Do (black belt), and is a member of honors societies like NHS, Math and English at LHS. After high school, Buckman plans to attend the University of Maryland at College Park to study International Business. Her career goal is to become an environmental lawyer.

For all cadets, she advises them to take advantages of the trips and volunteer opportunities offered by the unit because they are "fun, exciting, and memorable."

## MEET PATRICIA BUCKMAN (PRESIDENT OF THE BOOSTERS)

**Q: How long have you been President of the Boosters and how much time a week do you spend helping the unit? What kind of work do you typically do?**

A: Chief Rodrigues and Commander Lane asked me if I would be willing to set up a booster club towards the end of the second semester of the last year at Linganore High School, where the NJROTC Program was located prior to TJ. Setting up a 501 (c) (3) was challenging. By the beginning of our first year at TJ it was almost complete. The first year as president was pretty much a full time job. This was mainly due to getting all the legal parts in order. Initial set-ups always take time no matter what it is. The transition to TJ added to the challenge. Having the summer to work through everything helped. Our goal that first year was to do some fundraising and get volunteers in place to assist the NSI's as much as possible. As you know, we receive no funding from FCPS at all. All the field trips, team activities, events and busing has to be paid for out of funds that we raise. With enrollment over doubling, this was at the top of the list. A great group of cadets and parents rallied that summer to do some initial fundraising to get things started at TJ. My second year as president was spent fine tuning and trying to get volunteers in place to successfully run all the events the boosters were supporting and help out the NSI's in whatever way we could.

**Q: What is your favorite part of being President of the Boosters? Most difficult part?**

A: I love being part of such a wonderful organization. The NSI's, the cadets and the wonderful parent volunteers are what make the program. I love working with them and watching plans come to fruition as well as watching the cadets grow in their roles. While I don't think there are any difficult parts of my job, I'd have to say that the part I like the least is the legal end of things on the Federal, State, Local and FCPS side. Dealing with all the regulations and having to follow up to make sure things are being

done appropriately is just one of those things I personally do not enjoy.

**Q: What advice do you have for the next President of the Parent Boosters?**

A: Know that you have an incredible group of parents that support the unit. They are amazing and always have your back.

**Q: Do you have any advice for the parents of the cadets in the program?**

A: As a mom, not the president, I have to say...get involved. Even if your cadet says they don't want you there, go to their events. Watch their competitions. Chaperone their field trips. Participate in volunteering. Involve yourself as much as you can. As the saying goes...days go by slow but years go by fast. Before you know it, your cadet is graduating. Some of my best memories of my daughter's high school career are with the unit. It is something we will always share and be able to look back upon. I have made great friendships by being involved and have gotten to know many amazing cadets and have experienced things you can only experience by being a part of this amazing group of people.

**Q: Now that Sam is graduating, what are your feelings about saying goodbye to the Patriot NJROTC?**

A: It will be sad no doubt but I feel like the Boosters are in a great place, surrounded by incredible volunteers. I know that it will continue to grow and strengthen each year. I see what is on the horizon and am excited for all those who will benefit from years of planning and hard work. Like many things in life, one door closes and the next opens.

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**"Get involved ...involve yourself as much as you can."** – Patricia Buckman

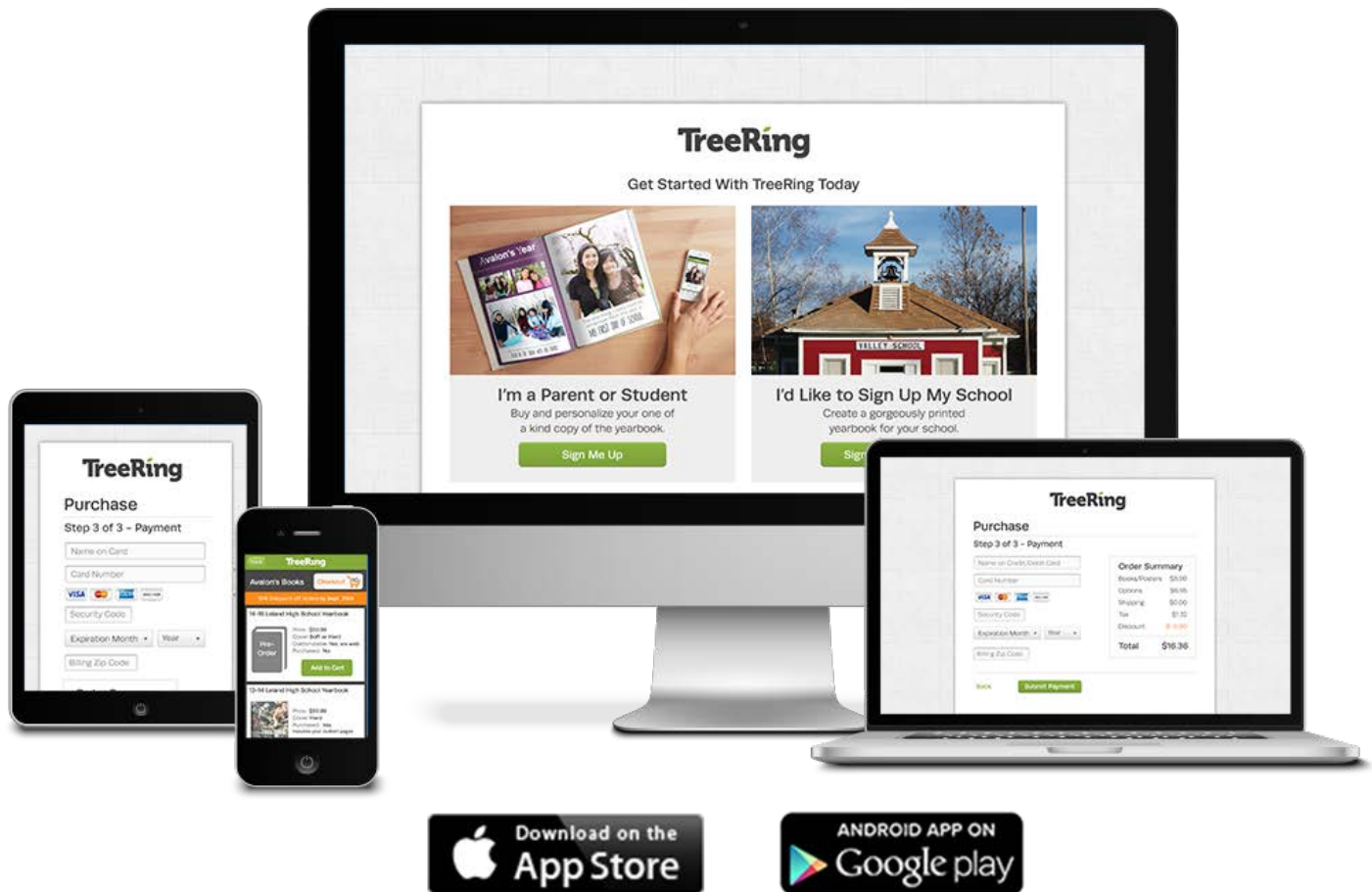
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# Easily Purchase This Year's

# NJROTC - Governor Thomas Johnson High School Yearbook from Anywhere!



## To Purchase Your Yearbook:

Go to [www.treering.com/101443707995128](http://www.treering.com/101443707995128)

Yearbook Price: **\$17.94**

Purchase Deadline: **May 8**

# TreeRing

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