

# BHS Students Entering Military Recognized by Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BTYR) recognized Burnsville High School students May 19 who have made military commitments during a Burnsville City Council meeting.

Nineteen students from Burnsville, Eagan and Savage have made commitments – four to the U.S. Marine Corps, one to the U.S. Army, 11 to the Minnesota Army National Guard, two to the U.S. Air Force, and one to the U.S. Navy. They include:

- **U.S. Marines:** Joshua Hanson of Eagan, Austin Strowbridge of Burnsville, Grayson MacPhee of Burnsville and Kyler Andrews of Burnsville.
- **U.S. Army:** Tyrese Maynard of Burnsville.
- **Minnesota Army National Guard:** Casey Jensen of Burnsville, Dillon Settergren of Burnsville, Cody Anderson of Eagan, Mara Michalek of Burnsville, Vince Strasavich of Burnsville, Randy Beaton of Burnsville, Haley Clark, of Burnsville, O'Daisha Mack of Burnsville, Angel Billingsley of Burnsville, Mathew Stewart of Burnsville and Kalissa Lorensen of Savage.
- **U.S. Air Force:** Jean-Roch Leger of Eagan and Matthew Gerner of Burnsville.
- **U.S. Navy:** Colton McKinney of Burnsville.

Col. (R) Mike Huddleston, coordinator for Burnsville BTYR, said this is the fourth year the organization has honored BHS students to congratulate them for making a commitment to serve their community and country.

“This is a very honorable endeavor that we feel should be acknowledged and celebrated before these students leave to begin their military training,” he said, “I also want to recognize and thank the families of these young folks for letting us borrow them to go to boot camp so that they can represent Burnsville, Eagan, Savage and our country.”

Normally, students and their families would be honored in person at the City Council meeting and attend a reception to meet members of the City Councils from Burnsville and Savage, Burnsville and Savage Police and Fire Departments, Burnsville Lions Club, Burnsville, Savage and Burnsville American Legion Clubs, Burnsville VFW, and Two Eagles Marine Detachment.

This year, due to the COVID-19/coronavirus crisis, those plans needed to be altered. During the May 19 online City Council meeting a proclamation, “Burnsville Yellow Ribbon Recognition of Students Entering the Military,” was read, and Huddleston shared the student’s names. The students were sent a letter signed by Mayor Elizabeth Kautz and Huddleston, a copy of the city proclamation and a Target gift card.

BTYR is a state-wide network of a diverse group of citizens and community leaders uniting key areas within local communities to leverage existing support activities, build awareness, and act to recognize and support veterans, service members and military families.

*(Below: City of Burnsville’s 2020 Proclamation Recognizing Students Entering the Military)*



## PROCLAMATION

### **BURNSVILLE YELLOW RIBBON RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS ENTERING MILITARY**

**WHEREAS,** The United States military supports the freedoms upon which our country was founded; and

**WHEREAS,** Entering in the military is a noble and important career choice -- almost 2.5 million people serve in the active and reserve branches of the military; and

**WHEREAS,** The Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon organization is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to supporting our nation's military, which includes the local Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and military veteran communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon's volunteer forces assist active-duty military members, veterans and their families with household chores ranging from babysitting, cleaning to household maintenance; and

**WHEREAS,** Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon also connects veterans with state, local and federal organizations who provide assistance to veterans who are looking to enter the workforce upon completion of military service; and

**WHEREAS,** The Burnsville and Savage communities join with the Burnsville Beyond the Yellow Ribbon organization to honor students who choose to enter the military; and

**WHEREAS,** The United States Congress, in 2004, passed a resolution proclaiming May as National Military Appreciation Month, a special month to honor both those in and out of the military.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz, on behalf of the City Council, proclaim May 17-23, 2020 as

**MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEK  
with a special emphasis on students who have selected careers in the military**

and urge my fellow citizens to observe this period by thanking young people in our community who have chosen to enter the military profession in support of our freedoms, health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

PROCLAIMED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020

  
Elizabeth B. Kautz, Mayor