



## **HISTORY OF THE INTER-SERVICE ENLISTED AIDE OF THE YEAR (EAoy) AWARD**

**For current information and past event photos –  
[www.vetsupportnetwork.org/competitions.html](http://www.vetsupportnetwork.org/competitions.html)**

The Enlisted Aide of the Year was created at a meeting of Ed Manley (then IFSEA and Military Hospitality Alliance President) and Mary Starkey (Starkey International). CSCS Martin Mongiello receives credit for putting Mr. Manley and Ms. Starkey together. Ms. Starkey asked Ed if MHA could create an award for enlisted aides, and Ed said, “I guess so, sure, why not.” She put Ed in touch with CMSgt Gary Murdock and CMSgt Pat Moore in order to create the framework of the award. The first meeting was facilitated by CSC Jerry Beck, and also included CMSgt Gary Murdock, FSCS Louis Bello-Leon, MGYSgt Andrew Schneider. The award is now co-sponsored by the Veteran’s Support Network and the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA).

Chief Moore approached the USO President, Elaine Rogers, and asked them to consider including the presentation of the EA of the Year Award in conjunction with their Salute to Military Chefs dinner, since the majority of those chefs were working for the senior military leaders (CJCS, VCJCS, COS Air Force, COS Army, CNO, Marine Corps Commandant). She thought it was a great idea and that her program would get more support and add another significant moment to the evening. She agreed and then Chiefs Moore, Murdock and Beck put the meeting together to come up with the timeline of submissions and involved Ms. Starkey and Ed Manley into the judging of the candidates. Initially active duty Generals or Admirals presided over the board, however upon advice from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, we now use retirees to preside over the judging panel, along with the wife of a General or Admiral and representatives of each service.

Thanks to the generosity of Elaine Rogers, President of the Metro DC/Baltimore USO,, the largest USO in the world, and the USO, the award has always been distributed at the annual Salute to Military Chefs dinner hosted by the USO at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Pentagon City. The dinner is attended by 175 senior military and civilian government officials.

In 2012, the WWE donated an official Championship Belt in a presentation case, which will be a rotating trophy, held in the office of the senior person in that service, such as if the Marines win, in the office of the Commandant or Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps. The winner also presents, more suitable for framing than wearing, championship ring,.

**Winners of the Inter-Service Enlisted Aide of the Year Award:  
Through 2019 – Army 5 wins, Coast Guard 4, Air Force and Marine Corps 3 each,  
and Navy 2.**

2003 was the first year and only two services participated, Air Force and Coast Guard. The winner was FS2 Lorraine Terry, Enlisted Aide to the Commandant of the Coast Guard Academy.

2004 was won by the Marine Corps, GYSgt Patrick Modrisky, Aide to the then Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Peter Pace.

2005 was won by the Army, MSG Michael Haug (SOCOM, MacDill Air Force Base)

2006 was won by the Coast Guard, FS1 Andrew Proulx, Aide to the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Thad Allan.

2007 was won by the Navy, CSC Benny Brockington, Senior Aide to the Commander, Central Command, Admiral Fallon.

2008 was won by the Air Force, MSgt Craig Duclos, Senior Aide to the Commander, Pacific Air Force, General Chandler.

2009 was won by the Air Force, MSgt Clayton Cooper, Senior Aide to the Commander, Air Combat Command, General Fraser.

2010 was won by the Navy, CSC Wes Tavares, Senior Aide to the Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Gary Roughhead.

2011 was won by the Marine Corps, SSgt Charles Hughes, Marine Aide to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

2012 was won by the Marine Corps, MSgt Brian Brazil, Marine Aide to the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps.

2013 was won by the Army, Sgt Sarah Deckert, Enlisted Aide to the Surgeon General of the Army.

2014 was won by the Coast Guard, FS1 Sammy Paone, Enlisted Aide to the Commander, 17<sup>th</sup> District, Juneau, Alaska

2015 was won by the Army, SSG Marc Susa, Enlisted Aide to the Army Chief Information Officer

2016 was won by the Coast Guard, FSC Derek R. Johnson, Enlisted Aide to the Commandant of the Coast Guard, ADM Paul Zukunft.

2017 was won by the Army, SMSgt Scott Strippoli, Enlisted Aide to Commanding General, HQ Army Training & Doctrine Command, Fort Eustis, VA, GEN David Perkins.

2018 was won by the Air Force, SMSgt Jennifer Medeiros, Enlisted Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, GEN Paul Selva.

2019 was won by the Army, SSG Justin Chase, Enlisted Aide to the Commander, U. S. Cyber Command.

2020 was won by the .....

### **Presidents of the Selection Board**

2020 – ADM Michael Mullen, former CNO and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife Deb, joined by ADM John Richardson (CNO) and his wife Dana, GEN Norton Frazier (CSAF) and his wife Suzie, Mrs. Ellyn Dunford (Chairman Joint Chiefs), ADM Paul Zukunft (Commandant Coast Guard) and his wife Fran, Mrs. Sheila Casey (CSA). Our first board with all 4-stars.

2019 – ADM Robert Papp, former Commandant of the Coast Guard and his wife Linda, joined by LTG Tony Crutchfield, VADM William French, Mrs. Cheryl Roberson (Commander, AETC) and CMSgt Pat Moore.

2017 and 2018 – Lt General Anthony Crutchfield, former Deputy Commander, U. S. Pacific Command; spouse member, Mrs. Suzie Schwartz, spouse of the former Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

2016 – General George Casey, former Chief of Staff of the Army; spouse members, Mrs. Sheila Casey and Mrs. Suzie Schwartz, spouse of the former Chief of Staff of the Air Force

2015 – Admiral James Winnefeld, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spouse members, Mrs. Mary Winnefeld and Mrs. Suzie Schwartz

2014 – Mrs. Lynne Pace, spouse of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Spouse member, Mrs. Suzie Schwartz

2013 – Lt. General Milstead, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Spouse member, Mrs. Lynne Pace, spouse of the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

2012 - Lt. General Milstead, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Spouse member, Mrs. Mary Winnefeld

### **Chairman of the Event:**

2003 - CMSgt Gary Murdock, U. S. Air Force

2004 - CMSgt Patrick Moore, U. S. Air Force

2005 - SGM Jamie Ryan, U. S. Army

2006 - SFC Roger D. Jermeay II, U. S. Army

2007 - CMSgt Steve Ray, U. S. Air Force

2008 - SFC Kathleen Wills, U. S. Army

2009 – MGySgt Jesus Camacho, U. S. Marine Corps

2010 – SMSgt Lori Kelly, U. S. Air Force

2011 – SMSgt Lori Kelly, U. S. Air Force

2012 – MGySgt Jesus Camacho, U. S. Marine Corps

2013 – CDR Danny King, Food Service Director, U. S. Navy

2014 – LCDR Edward Manley, U. S. Navy (Ret)

2015 – CSCS Eric Robinson, U. S. Navy