2012 AUSA Greater-New York Statue of Liberty Chapter
Appreciation Reception

Annual Corporate Reception Held to Recognize Chapter Sponsors
Who Support Local Soldiers and Their Families

By Diane Dady

Distinguished Guests, Chapter Members and Corporate Sponsors of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Greater-New York Statue of Liberty Chapter gathered on October 17, 2012 for the Annual Corporate Reception & Recognition Dinner at the Mutual of America Building in New York, NY. The widely received event is held each year to honor, recognize and support the Chapter’s corporate members, whose sponsorship contributes to the support of soldiers and their families throughout the Greater-New York area. The event was graciously hosted for the ninth straight year by Corporate Member, Mutual of America.

Col Dominic Morelli, Members of the Fordham ROTC, Bob Vormittag

Liberty Chapter President LTC Joe Schroder, together with Bob Vormittag, Liberty Chapter Vice President of Corporate Affairs and CEO of Chapter Corporate Sponsor, VAI, were emcees for the ceremony. The evening began with a delightful cocktail reception and was followed by a program that kicked off with the Fordham ROTC performing the Colors and an opening prayer by Colonel Father Edward Kane. Guest speakers Terrance C. Holliday and Jeff Klare of Be a Hero-Hire a Hero offered engaging and lively presentations. During the Ceremony, LTC Joe Schroder and Bob Vormittag presented Corporate Members in attendance with awards for their Corporate Sponsorship. Special gifts were also presented to Mutual of America for hosting the gathering, and to the evening’s speakers. The event would not have been complete without the participation and support of Sgt. Louis Licalzi, who once again lent his beautiful voice to the program by singing the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America.

Attendees dedicated to furthering recognition and support for the Liberty Chapter Soldiers and their families discussed new member recruitment and honored existing members whose support remain critical to providing funds and aid for those who selflessly serve in our military. This year’s Corporate honorees were: Capacity Benefits Group, Inc., Command Security Corp., IneedMD, Inc., Mutual of America, New York Oil Heating, Inc., Old Guard of the City of New York, Squadron A. Association, Veteran Corps of Artillery, and Vormittag Associates, Inc. (VAI).

Bob Vormittag stated, “The purpose of our evening’s program is to recognize our Corporate Members and to encourage new membership and greater participation by all. It is an honor to be here tonight in support of our troops. We are grateful to all of the chapter supporters and especially thankful to Mutual of America for its generous sponsorship and continued support of our chapter’s recognition.”
“It is so important for the Liberty Chapter to recognize its Corporate Sponsors, who are vital to the support of our Soldiers,” said LTC Joe Schroder. “Whether local community groups and businesses or veterans organizations, these sponsors come together to provide necessary assistance for our military. We appreciate our sponsor participation and support, especially during these trying times as we continue to fight the War on Terrorism.”

Terrance C. Holliday was the evening’s guest speaker. Holliday, a retired Colonel in the United States Air Force, is currently serving as Commissioner of Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs in New York City. The office advises the Mayor on issues affecting the veterans community and works to assist veterans and returning service members by connecting them with services and benefits at Federal, State and City agencies. Mr. Holliday establishes partnerships to assist veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and works to expand the City's outreach to veterans of all wars, including veterans who have returned to New York from Iraq and Afghanistan.
Jeff Klare, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Hire Disability Solutions, LLC and creator of Be a Hero-Hire a Hero, spoke about the organization’s dedication to giving back when our Heroes come back. Be A Hero-Hire A Hero focuses on creating a network of strategic alliances in corporate, educational, and military resource-based partnerships. Its mission is to empower our Veterans, Wounded Warriors, and their family members; preparing them for a seamless integration from military to civilian life by providing the necessary foundation for success.

Mr. Klare serves as a consultant to many of the Fortune 1000 on the issue of Veterans, Wounded Warrior and Disabilities and Employment.

For more information about Be a Hero-Hire a Hero, visit: www.beahero-hireahero.com.

LTC Joe Schroder gave a special mention to the Fordham ROTC for their years of support to the Chapter’s Corporate Event, adding, "Fordham ROTC Honor Guard has been a great addition to Corporate Appreciation Night and we really appreciate their time and dedication to ROTC and the Army."
The AUSA Greater-New York Statue of Liberty Chapter thanks Father COL Edward Kane for giving the opening invocation, the Fordham ROTC for performing the colors and assisting guests, speakers Terrance C. Holliday and Jeff Klare for their presentations, and Corporate Sponsors in attendance who continue to support the Citizen Soldiers and their families. The Chapter would also like to acknowledge the following Past Presidents of the AUSA Greater-New York-Statue of Liberty Chapter in attendance; Col Dominic Morelli, MG Robert Rose and MG George Barker.

AUSA is a private, nonprofit, professional and educational association of over 101,000 individuals, businesses, military and organizational members strong: Soldiers, Officers, NCOs, Active, Reserve, Guard, Army Civilians, Retirees, ROTC Cadets and representatives from other services. For more information about the AUSA, visit http://www.ausa.org.