

THE SHORTHORN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

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MEDALS OF VALOR, STORIES OF GOLD



National Medal of Honor Museum opens in the Arlington Entertainment District

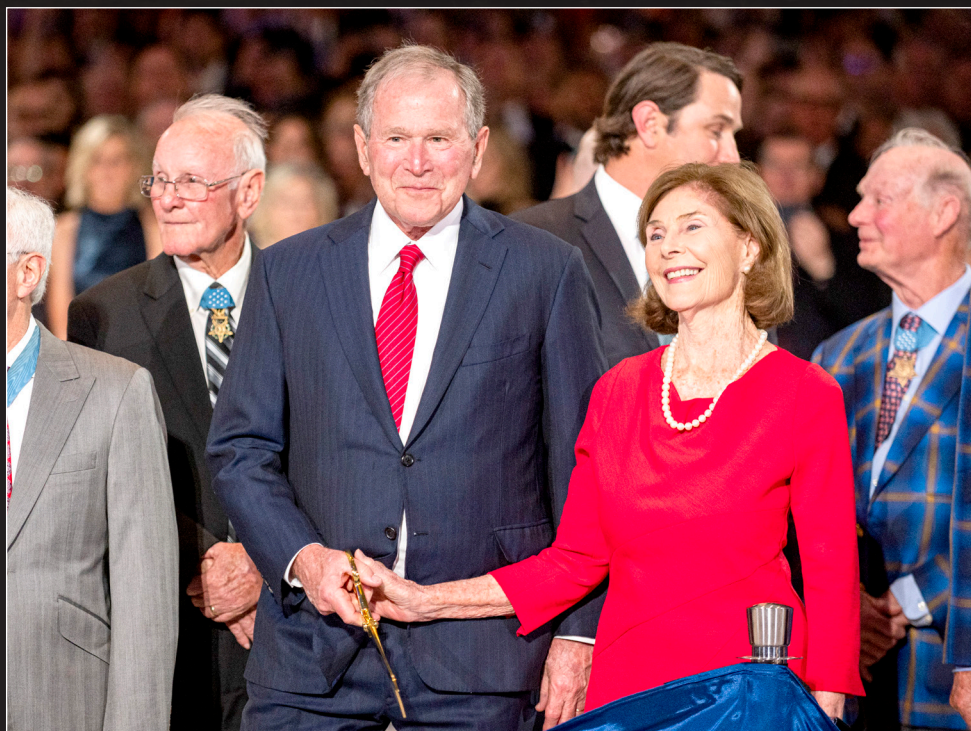
BY HANNAH GARCÍA AND JAMES WARD
The Shorthorn staff

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest award for valor. The stories of 3,500 men and one woman throughout history will be remembered with the opening of the National Medal of Honor Museum.

After over five years of anticipation, the museum opened its doors in the Arlington Entertainment District. The building's footprint encompasses over 100,000 square feet, aiming to preserve and expand the significance of the medal and its recipients with exhibition galleries, an education center, and conference and event space.

The museum's complex has a sloped, open courtyard leading to the Rotunda of Honor, an area serving as the main entrance and a public space to gather before entering the building. Though the building isn't open 24/7, the outside area will be.

From outside the rotunda, stepping



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush cut the ribbon during the Celebration of Honor on March 22 at the National Medal of Honor Museum. National and local leaders attended the event.

in, the Ring of Valor will be backlit and constantly visible to greet guests. The ever-evolving exhibit honors every Medal of Honor recipient, illuminating their names to ensure no story is lost to darkness. Employees can help attendees find specific people.

The rotunda is surrounded by various facilities. To the west is the Griffin Institute, an education center hosting programs for teachers, students, business executives and veterans, focusing on character-based leadership.



ONLINE

Find more Medal of Honor Museum coverage online at theshorthorn.com/moh.

THE MUSEUM continues on page 3

The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

PATRIOTISM

National leaders, community members and Medal of Honor recipients celebrate the museum's grand opening.

THE PAGEENTRY on pages 2 and 9

COMMITMENT

With the museum's opening, UTA's military roots are being brought into the limelight as two alumni have been awarded with the medal.

THE UNIVERSITY on page 3

COURAGE

While the museum is expected to generate money for Arlington, city officials and residents want people to remember its larger meaning.

THE COMMUNITY on page 6

SACRIFICE

Two Medal of Honor recipients, an architect and the Arlington mayor — how the museum unites them and tells their stories.

THE STORIES on page 7

INTEGRITY

The Griffin Institute hopes to instill Medal of Honor values in America's youth through stories and immersive programs.

THE EDUCATION on page 8

CITIZENSHIP

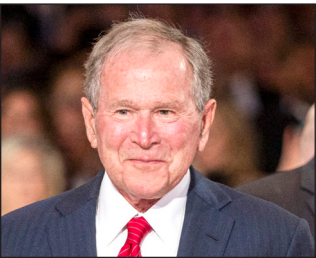
Editorial: The museum gives residents opportunities to learn the Medal of Honor's history often forgotten throughout the community.

THE HONORING on page 10

WHAT THEY SAID



“That young man or young lady is gonna walk out that back door, and they’re gonna know that they can be a hero and they don’t have to go to combat to do it.”
Patrick Brady
Medal of Honor recipient



“When you look at the Medal of Honor recipient, you’re looking at someone who has demonstrated gallantry under impossible odds.”
George W. Bush
former U.S. president



“It’s an honor to work for them on behalf of the nation and to build a monument, a museum, a tribute to their service. It’s a one of a lifetime opportunity.”
Chris Cassidy
National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation president and CEO



“Your stories and your commitment to service, the ones that motivated us to wake up every day determined to take an idea and transform it into the reality of this museum you see here.”
Charlotte Jones
National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation chairman



“The real exciting thing is that this is going to be a beacon for character values throughout our nation.”
Jeff Williams
former Arlington mayor



“Their stories can inspire little boys, little girls, Americans across the country about what is possible when you put love of country in front of everything else.”
Ted Cruz
Texas senator



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Medal of Honor recipients and political leaders cut the ribbon during the National Medal of Honor Museum’s Celebration of Honor on March 22 in Arlington. There are currently 61 living Medal of Honor recipients.



Medal of Honor recipients and political leaders stand in front of flags during the National Medal of Honor Museum’s Celebration of Honor on March 22 in Arlington. The flags represent the various branches of the U.S. military.



Attendees watch fireworks light up the sky during the National Medal of Honor Museum’s Grand Opening: Mission to Inspire Spectacular on March 22 in Arlington. The museum livestreamed the event.



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

The Medal of Honor Experience plays March 19 at the National Medal of Honor Museum. The panoramic video showcases testimonials from recipients, statements from former presidents and footage from various combats.



THE UNIVERSITY

UTA’s military legacy inspires students

UTA is known for its military history, with two Medal of Honor recipients attending the once North Texas Agricultural College.

BY AMANDA ALDRIDGE, PEDRO MALKOMES, MATTHEW TIBEBE
The Shorthorn staff

Since the Medal of Honor’s establishment in 1861, less than 1% of servicemembers have received one — a select few out of millions. Two of them have UTA roots.

Col. Neel E. Kearby and Gen. Richard E. Cavazos were members of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program when the university was known as North Texas Agricultural College. Now with the National Medal of Honor Museum honoring their service, UTA’s military roots are being brought into the limelight.

“I think it shows that not only do we create leaders of character, but we also create leaders of great potential for immense levels of command and leadership to the highest ranks possible of the Army,” said Lt. Col. Greg LeClair, UTA military science professor.

Ken Smith, UTA Cadet Corps Alumni Council vice president of finance, said that in being chosen to host the Medal of Honor Museum, UTA’s support with cadet escorts, color guard services and the backing of the alumni network was critical in influencing the selection board’s decision, giving Arlington an edge over other finalists such as Denver.

Smith said the museum will be a powerful source of inspiration for younger cadets and alumni. Having it in the city will help maintain the military culture that UTA has had for decades.

“Just touring the museum, seeing the actions, seeing the Medals of Honor that are displayed, seeing some of the equipment, hearing the stories of just regular people in moments of highly outstanding drive, dedication, caring for their fellow soldiers, and devotion to duty and honor and courage will definitely serve them,” he said.

Anyone who meets the basic requirements at 18 can enlist in the

military, but to be a leader such as an Army officer, you must have a college degree.

Kearby, Medal of Honor recipient, attended NTAC in 1930 and 1931, and was described as the “perfect combat leader.” In 1943, he shot down six enemy aircrafts in one mission. That mission earned him the Medal of Honor.

Not only is Kearby’s heroism recognized in the museum, but he also has a statue that sits outside City Center Plaza in Arlington to ensure he will be remembered for his valor.

Cavazos, Medal of Honor recipient, attended NTAC from 1947 to 1949 and was a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Cadet Captain of the Sam Houston Rifles drill team. After being commissioned in the Army in 1951, he was deployed in the Korean War and selected as a platoon leader.

His consistent acts of bravery to rescue multiple men on various occasions during his leadership earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, as well as the Silver Star for capturing a wounded enemy soldier.

LeClair said about 80% of commission officers in the U.S. Army come from Army ROTC programs like the one UTA has.

With its wealth of programs and support, UTA recently ranked as the No. 1 public university in Texas and No. 5 in the nation for military service members and veterans in the Military Times Best for Vets 2024 Colleges list.

UTA’s Military and Veteran Services program assists students in transitioning to UTA, health and well-being, educational benefits, engagement and career readiness.

The university has served over 70,000 military-connected students since 2017, according to the UTA website.

Smith said UTA brings a sense of support to those transitioning out of the military and into “civilian life” — a difficult process due to the military’s traditions and structure.

Despite the sometimes overwhelming process, he said the university’s additional support and programs are what continue drawing



Photo courtesy of UTA Special Collections and Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collections

North Texas Agricultural College Silver Bugle Ceremony participants wear military cadet uniforms November 28, 1941.

veterans to UTA. Most schools don’t have as much depth to their veteran programs, he said.

“The emphasis, the time, dedication and the excellence they have developed, really over the last decade, has shown with being number [five] in the nation, being number one in Texas,” Smith said.

UTA’s strong military support system dates back to 1902 when Col. James Carlisle established Carlisle Military Academy. Though undergoing several identities, the university has stayed true to its roots by establishing the Department of Military Science and the Maverick Battalion.

To be a leader, he said cadets must hold themselves to a higher standard of discipline. Of the people who serve as leaders in the U.S. military, many are graduates who had to earn their degrees.

“It’s been people from campuses like Arlington that have kept the world safe for prosperity as we know it today, so we should celebrate it,” LeClair said.

Formed in 1924 under a different name, the Sam Houston Rifles drill team members are living examples of

the guiding principles of the ROTC program. The department continues to honor UTA’s military history by reinstating the ceremonial Carlisle Cannons, which marks the heritage and military presence of university veterans and cadets.

After being admitted into UTA, Smith joined the ROTC program his second year and later joined the Sam Houston Rifles.

Now a veteran and alumnus, Smith and the alumni council members continue to help grow the culture UTA began decades ago.

Smith said he continues to give back to the university because UTA showed him a path to the military, one allowing him to serve for 30 years.

“I look at it from an alumni standpoint, mentoring those cadets to really grow and develop into our replacements, so to speak, and then fostering the spirit of showing their cadets, or their youngsters, or their family, their high school buds, folks coming up behind them, ‘Here’s what military service is,’” he said.

Capt. Hunter Callahan, Maverick Battalion Color Guard executive officer, said UTA’s military history is a

testament to the veteran culture in Texas, specifically in Arlington.

Callahan said he appreciated that the museum’s committee chose Arlington, a dedicated and involved environment, to be the host because it represents what the city stands for. The support also fosters opportunities to give his cadets a spotlight and a chance to build their legacies.

“It’s just a phenomenal opportunity to be a part of a nationally recognized museum organization,” he said. “It’s a huge scope and scale.”

LeClair said the amount of leadership produced from UTA’s ROTC program is remarkable and he’s proud to be a part of it.

“These cadets, they are the face of the Army. They are the ones that lead in this country, in the United States Army, I think that’s what we really need to understand,” he said. “Those leaders are coming from places like UT Arlington.”

@AMANDALALDRIDGE @PMALKOMES @BABYBOIMATT
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The Museum

continued from page 1

The 1861 Café and Museum Shop is located to the east, next to the Great Hall, a theater and event space that reflects out onto Mark Holtz Lake.

The Neel Kearby Theater, named after recipient Col. Neel E. Kearby who attended North Texas Agricultural College before it was UTA, houses a stage and over 200 seats.

Inspired by the appearance of steel emerging from a fiery forge, the main exhibition hall’s exterior is made of dark, metallic panels representing the matter.

The hall is suspended 40 feet in the air by five concrete megacolumns, each representing a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Though no Medal of Honors have been received in the U.S. Space Force, it is recognized through the light cannon on the roof.

Before seeing the main exhibits, attendees watch the Medal of Honor Experience, a panoramic video of testimonials from recipients, statements from former presidents and footage from various combats.

The museum highlights the recipients’ acts of valor and tells their life stories – how

they grew up, why they joined the armed forces and the challenges they faced.

“We do that because when you study the stories of these recipients, you learn that they are ordinary people just like us who, in a moment of time, courage met circumstance, and they did something extraordinary,” said Mike Caldwell, director of the Center for the Elevation of Honor at the National Medal of Honor Museum’s Griffin Institute.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: The National Medal of Honor Museum will tell the stories of recipients who’ve received the prestigious military honor.
WHEN: 10am - 5pm March 25
WHERE: 1861 AT&T Way
COST: Tickets start at \$30

Greg Waters, director for Curatorial Affairs at the National Medal of Honor Museum, said he was hired several years ago after being told the museum was being built but had no items for collections.

“It immediately became a huge scavenger hunt to try to figure out where the artifacts are, what stories we could tell with them, and also, how can we get them,” Waters said.

More Than a Medal

Throughout the hall, these exhibits take guests on a journey of discovery through the “ordinary” lives and extraordinary actions of Medal of Honor recipients.

Many artifacts were obtained by building relationships with families of recipients, and some were loaned by other museums and organizations, he said.

“A lot of people think that we are a military museum, and in some sense that is true, but we also see ourselves as a biography museum,” Waters said. “We really are interested in telling full life stories of the recipients.”

Apart from guns and knives or other tools used by recipients, Waters included some of their favorite items pre-enlistment, such as childhood toys. A Superman doll from Kyle Carpenter, U.S. Marine Corps veteran and youngest living recipient, and a G.I. Joe figure from U.S. Army Capt. Florent “Flo” Groberg is among these.

When put into a larger context, these “mundane” items become a powerful part of the recipients’ stories.

A timeline from 1861 to modern day lines the exhibition hall wall, covering the ins and outs of the medal’s continuous history.



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

An unissued U.S. Air Force Medal of Honor sits on display March 22 in the National Medal of Honor Museum. The medal was first awarded in 1967, 20 years after the U.S. Air Force was established.

“One joy of our museum is that this history is ongoing,” Waters said. “These medals are still being awarded, there’s always more stories to tell.”

Other display areas include the medal’s design history, complete with the first ever awarded Medal of Honor and a “letters home” wall of messages recipients sent their families.

The “Conversations: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives” exhibit allows guests to have virtual interviews with recipients U.S. Army Capt. Jack Jacobs, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Melvin Morris, U.S. Navy Lt. Thomas Norris and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady.

From Rails to Rotors

A full-scale replica of Brady’s Bell UH-1H Iroquois Helicopter is currently the museum’s largest artifact. Caldwell said it is accurate down to the paint job, with “Nancy Lee” painted on its nose for his late wife.

“You learn all about not only Gen. Brady’s military action but several other helicopter pilots and other pilots who earned the medal during the Vietnam War,” Caldwell said.

Surrounding the helicopter are “story showers” that people can step into to hear audio of crew members discussing the historic impact of the Huey helicopter in Medal of Honor actions.

The “Dustoff: Coming to the Rescue” room exhibit is a virtual reality experience, taking guests on a critical medical mission to rescue injured soldiers in combat.

Caldwell said it is critically important to preserve the legacy of the Medal of Honor and its 3,528 recipients.

“We want everyone who visits the museum to see themselves in someone and be inspired to do extraordinary things in their life too,” he said.

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Bring factual errors to The Shorthorn’s attention via email to editor.shorthorn@uta.edu or call 817-272-3188. A correction or clarification will be printed in this space.

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BE THE VOICE AND...

SPRING '25 OTE

CAMPUS ELECTIONS

IN PERSON: M UNIVERSITY
BRING YOUR MAVENGA

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT



PLACE 1
SATVIK REDDY

Because UTA deserves a president who answers emails!

Hey Mavs! I'm running for Student Government President because UTA deserves a leader who listens, takes action, and maybe—just maybe—remembers to GET BETTER FOOD ON CAMPUS. Whether it's improving campus life, amplifying student voices, or making sure parking isn't a daily nightmare, I'm here for YOU. With my experience (and sheer determination), I'll work to make real changes that matter. Vote for me if you want a president who keeps it real and makes student life just a little less stressful!



PLACE 3
EFFUA JORDAN

Effua for Student Body President Empowering UTA through stronger connections, increased funding, and transparent leadership!

I am running for Student Body President because of my passion for serving students and improving our campus community. As the current Chief of Staff, and a member of LASO, FSA, Cat Coalition, and HSNA, I have gained valuable leadership experience and a deep understanding of student needs. Additionally, my volunteer work at the Arlington Life Shelter has taught me the importance of giving back. My goals as President for Student Government include increasing funding for student organizations, ensuring transparency within the government, and fostering stronger interpersonal connections between diverse organizations. I am committed to making our campus a more inclusive and vibrant place for all students.

STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT



PLACE 1
JENNIFER SANCHEZ FLORES

Let's leave OUR lasting imprint!

As your Vice President, I will be a dedicated advocate for UTA students, ensuring your concerns are addressed and your voices are heard. I want to strengthen the connection between students and the administration, creating a campus that values transparency, inclusivity, and unity. No matter our differences, we are all Mavericks, and together, we can foster a supportive and empowering community.

My experience as Ms. UTA has allowed me to represent our university with pride, uphold traditions, and engage with students from diverse backgrounds. Now, I want to bring that same leadership and passion to Student Government. Let's work together to make UTA an even better place for everyone. Your voice matters! and remember... It's always a great day to be a MAVERICK!



PLACE 2
ANDRES MORALES

Vote #2 to be your #2—Empower UTA with Andres Morales as VP. Leadership that delivers results, not promises!

As a Navy Veteran, current Business Senator, and active member of FSA, ALPFA, Cat Coalition, and UTA Ambassadors, I have worked tirelessly to improve student life. I've successfully passed two resolutions—Locker Drop (Amazon Lockers) and Fire Up Tradition (ROTC Cannons)—through the Senate and administration. I'm pushing for better campus postal services, increased feminine hygiene access, improved budget efficiency, and more funding for student organizations. Beyond legislation, I've expanded Student Government visibility by actively engaging with students and ensuring their voices are heard. As Vice President, I will fight for real change, more resources, and a campus that works for YOU. Vote #2 – Andres Morales for Vice President because leadership isn't about promises, it's about action.



PLACE 3
VITHIN REDDY

Your Voice, Your Future: Stronger Together at UTA

As an international student and a representative in UTA Student Government, I understand the challenges

students face—academically, financially, and socially. With my experience in leadership, student advocacy, and problem-solving, I am committed to making student voices heard. I aim to improve resources for academic success, create more opportunities for financial support, and foster an inclusive campus community. My background in Computer Science and involvement in various student initiatives have equipped me with the skills to drive meaningful change. If elected, I will work tirelessly to ensure every student gets the support they need to thrive at UTA. Let's build a stronger, more connected student body together!



PLACE 4
GABRIEL MBONU

WRITE-IN
AMINUR BARI NAFIO



PLACE 1
MARTIN CAMARILLO

"One community one voice, let's make history together"

My name is Martin Camarillo Arredondo Resendiz, and I'm honored to be a candidate for Mr. UTA. As the oldest of seven children from immigrant parents, I'm a first-generation student. I'm the first in my family to graduate high school, earn the IB Diploma, and pursue a Biochemistry degree with a Public Health minor. Throughout my journey, I've faced challenges, but I've worked hard to break barriers and redefine what's possible, not just for me but for others. My vision for Mr. UTA is to create a community that values diversity, inclusivity, and culture. I believe leadership is about collaboration and ensuring everyone feels seen and valued. I hope to earn your support in creating unity here at UTA."



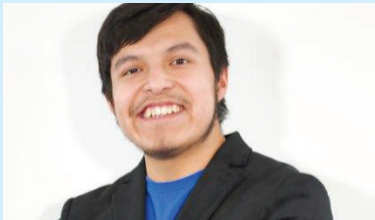
PLACE 2
HARMON JOSEPH

Real Change. Real Impact. Vote Harmon!

I'm running for Mr. UTA and Engineering Senator because I believe in real change that benefits every student. If elected, my focus will be on making campus life more vibrant by introducing engaging activities, cultural events, and fun competitions throughout the semester to strengthen our community.

Supporting student employees is a priority, and I will push for a higher minimum wage, fair pay, and better working conditions. Additionally, I'll streamline the part-time job application process so students can apply more easily and receive timely updates on their application status.

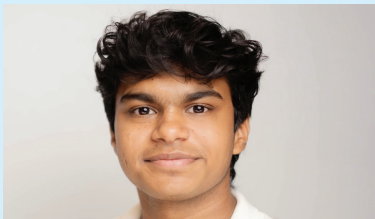
My goal is to create lasting change and ensure every student's voice is heard. Most importantly, I'll remain open to your ideas and serve as a strong advocate for all Mavericks, ensuring we progress together.



PLACE 3
EMMANUEL HERNANDEZ

Driven, Bold, and Maverick-Made—With Emmanuel, History's Made!

Mavericks don't just adapt—we innovate, elevate, and dominate. I'm Emmanuel Hernandez, and I'm running for Mr. UTA because I believe this campus deserves a leader who's fearless, passionate, and always ready to show up for YOU. From running student orgs to creating unforgettable campus experiences, I've made it my mission to bring people together and make UTA the best it can be. If you're looking for a Mr. UTA who's not just a name, but a movement, then let's make it happen. Vote Emmanuel Hernandez! Because Mavericks don't follow the trail—we blaze it.



PLACE 4
SAMARTH JAGTAP

The 'Samarth'est Choice for Mr. UTA! Be Smart, Vote Samarth!

As a dedicated candidate for Mr. UTA, I am committed to representing and uplifting our diverse student body. My leadership journey at UTA has given me the skills to foster collaboration and advocate for student engagement. From founding a student organization to now leading multiple as President and Vice President, I have worked to create inclusive spaces where all Mavericks feel valued and empowered. These experiences have allowed me to connect with students from all backgrounds and understand our commu-

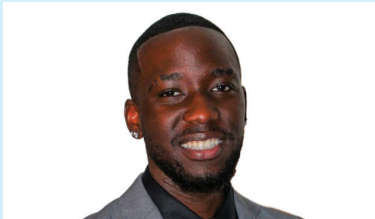
nity's needs. As Mr. UTA, I will continue to promote school spirit, encourage meaningful engagement, and serve as a positive role model. With your support, we can strengthen connections and celebrate the incredible talents, cultures, and ideas that make UTA exceptional.



PLACE 5
HARSHDEEP SINGH

For unity and drive, your vote goes to #5!

As a dedicated UTA Ambassador, I've always strived to foster community and uphold the traditions that make our campus unique. My involvement with Sigma Chi, the Interfraternity Council, ASCE, Chi Epsilon, and UTA Ambassadors has taught me firsthand the value of leadership and genuine connection. Guiding new Mavericks during Convocation and the After Party showed me how powerful our community can be when we come together. I'm eager to serve as Mr. UTA, bringing that same energy to create inclusive events that celebrate every voice on campus. Your support would mean the world to me, and I'm ready to lead us into a dynamic future.



WRITE-IN
JAKINDA OPONDO



PLACE 1
LACEY ANN GARCIA

At UTA, We Celebrate Identity & Create Unity

As we honor our university's legacy, I am committed to enhancing Founders Day, making it a more immersive and meaningful tradition that unites students, alumni, faculty, and the community. By incorporating engaging events, historical reflections, and deeper campus involvement, we can ensure Founders Day remains a proud Maverick tradition.

Additionally, I believe in creating a memorable UTA Ring tradition—one that symbolizes achievement, unity, and Maverick pride. Whether through a formal ring ceremony, a unique campus ritual, or a special recognition event, we will make receiving the UTA Ring a milestone for every student.

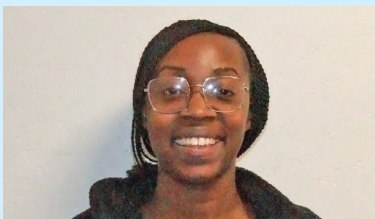
Together, let's strengthen our Maverick spirit by building traditions that leave a lasting legacy for generations to come!"



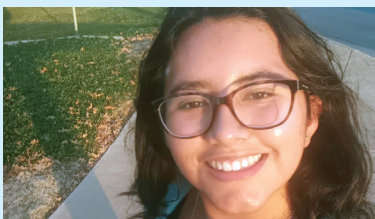
PLACE 2
SRAAVYA MAULIKA YENUGAPALLI

Gear up, Mavericks! Together, we can Blaze a trail to awesomeness. Vote Ballot #2 for Sraavya Maulika as Ms. UTA

From my first day at orientation, I felt a deep connection to the Mavericks community and knew I wanted to serve in a leadership role. I believe that by taking on this position, I can give back and help foster the same sense of belonging and happiness that welcomed me. I'm passionate about continuing our cherished traditions while collaborating with fellow Mavericks to create new ones that inspire. My goal for this year is to cultivate a vibrant, joyful atmosphere where every Maverick feels valued and celebrated. Together, we can make this year unforgettable and filled with moments that reflect the spirit of our amazing community.



PLACE 3
LATERIA DORSEY



PLACE 4
ISABELLA ROBLES

Inspirationbelle, informationbelle, and irresistible, vote Isabella for Ms.UTA.

As a member of the UTA community for the past two years, the strength of having a community to fall back on has always been the thing I love about UTA. As Ms.UTA, I want to make sure that everyone feels con-

nected, whether they are commuter students, online students, or in person students. No matter where you come from, or where you choose to go, UTA will be a place filled with good memories for you. As a commuter student myself, I understand the struggles that come with traveling to and fro campus and dealing with extracurriculars, jobs, and personal matters. To go to campus and know that there is a community who share your struggles and joys is a blessing.



PLACE 5
SNEHA PATEL

A leader you can trust, a friend who listens—Sneha for Ms. UTA!

When you vote for me as Ms. UTA, you're choosing someone who has walked in your shoes—navigating challenges, embracing opportunities, and making the most of everything UTA offers. More than just a leader, I want to be a friend, a voice, and a representative who truly understands and supports our Maverick community. As a UTA Ambassador, Technical Officer for SCAI, and an active member of various organizations, I've worked to uplift students through mentorship, or simply being there to listen, and creating a welcoming, inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. I'm running for Ms. UTA to continue making a difference—ensuring every Maverick feels heard and supported. Let's work together to make UTA the best it can be—Vote for me, and let's make it happen!"



PLACE 7
MAYTE CAMPOS-TOVAR

Vote Lucky #7 for a more Fortunate UTA!

As a dedicated Maverick, I have spent my time at UTA uplifting students and fostering a strong, inclusive community. Through my leadership in the UTA Ambassadors, Student Government, and the Honors College, I have worked to create meaningful opportunities for student engagement and advocacy. As a proud Hispanic Mexican-American queer student, I understand the importance of representation and connection, ensuring every voice is heard. My involvement in academic, cultural, and service organizations over the past three years have shaped my passion for making UTA a place where all students feel empowered. If elected as Ms. UTA, I will continue to build Maverick pride, advocate for student needs, and inspire others to embrace leadership and service. Let's make UTA stronger together!

SENATORS

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



PLACE 1
SAMEEN BAIG

Vote for me! :)

I am running as a student senator to represent my fellow underclassmen in CAPP! The lack of collaborative studio space for freshman is my main concern. If we supported our freshman interested in pursuing architecture by creating a productive studio environment by implementing a workspace outside of class designated for underclassmen, we could encourage more people to stay within the major and learn from their peers. The best part about architecture is learning, growing, and getting close to your classmates! Let's make sure we institute this at every level of our major!

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



PLACE 2
KHONDKER SAHAF BIN ASIF

Invest in Sahaf—Big Returns, Bigger Dividends, and the Best for COBA!

Unlike the stock market, this investment only goes up—no crashes, just straight A's in leadership!

Numbers don't lie, and neither do I—so let's crunch the issues and cook up some real change! As a Finance major, I know that smart decisions and strategic investments make all the difference—especially when it comes to repping COBA. From working at an ed-tech startup to dominating as Bangladesh's economics champion, I've tackled high-stakes challenges, and now, I'm ready to tackle ours. Better food options? Check. Addressing the fragrant concerns flooding the UTA subreddit? You bet. Your ideas and ambitions deserve a senator who gets things done—not just someone who talks business, but someone who means business. Vote for me, and let's turn spreadsheets into action and concerns into solutions—because COBA deserves nothing less than peak performance!



PLACE 3
LARAMIE WALKER



PLACE 5
CHISOM ONWUCHULUBA



PLACE 7
MICHAEL JUAREZ

Remember to Vote for lucky #7 It's Good Luck! Michael Juarez for UTA Senate College of Business

Hello, my name is Michael Juarez I'm running for Student Senate at the College of Business and my agenda is clear Business, Opportunity, & Connection. I want everyone's voice to be heard as a first-generation college student I understand the struggle and congratulate you in being the 1st one in the family. I'm a transfer from Dallas College & Commuter and I care about my fellow Mavericks and want to give every edge possible for you to have a successful experience attending UTA and make the process as smooth as possible while attending before and after graduation. If elected senator I won't give you 30 minutes I will give you an hour to discuss your case thank you & Mav up.



WRITE-IN
JANET RIVERA

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



PLACE 1
SRAAVYA MAULIKA YENUGAPALLI

Rev up that Engine Mavs, Let's make it to #1. Vote Sraavya Maulika Yenugapalli (Ballot #1)

Hey Mavericks, here's a little information about me. I am majoring in electrical engineering with plans to minor in computer science. As a member of the Honors College, I currently serve as the Programming Board Coordinator, where I've gained valuable leadership experience. Additionally, I am an officer of the Students in Computing and Artificial Intelligence (SCAI) organization, where I collaborate to share resources and innovative ideas about AI and workshops to our fellow peers. I am running for this position to represent the voice of my fellow engineering Mavericks, ensuring their perspectives and needs are heard.



PLACE 2
BARKHA MEHUL PANDYA

LIKE A WELL-BUILT BRIDGE, I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

Hello Mavericks! I'm Barkha, a master's student in Construction Management, and I'm excited to run for engineering senator. I understand the challenges we face like academic pressure, career growth, or finding the right support system.

My goal is to make UTA's engineering community stronger, more connected, and better supported. I will advocate for more networking events for all the engineering fields and hands-on learning opportunities. I also want to promote collaboration among engineering disciplines and ensure students can access the resources they need to succeed. I believe that every student deserves to be heard, and I am committed to being your voice in the student government.

Let's build a better future together, one where every engineering student thrives. Vote: Barkha Mehul Pandya for engineering senator!"

MARCH 31 & APRIL 1 - 9PM TO 6 PM
CENTER ART GALLERY (RM. 106)
GE MOBILE EVENT PASS OR MAVEXPRESS ID CARD TO VOTE.

Students enrolled in at least one class are eligible to vote on the at-large ballot and academic ballot of their primary major. Voter eligibility for special elections (such as fee referendums) and other conditions are outlined in the current Election Code.

Online voting options and more information at uta.edu/elections
Results will be announced at the “Party after the Polls” - April 1 · 7 PM · Brazos Park



PLACE 3

NICHOLAS SPIVEY

Your Voice, Amplified

Driven to amplify the unheard voices at UT Arlington, I'm running to ensure every student feels seen and valued. I believe in creating a platform where diverse perspectives shape our campus. I'll fight for transparency and accessibility, working to bridge the gap between students and administration. My goal is to foster a community where every opinion matters, and where positive change is driven by collective action. Let's build a more inclusive and representative UTA together.



PLACE 4

HARMON JOSEPH



PLACE 5

ETHAN GUERRA

*From frustration to action,
let's get it done.*

I know what it's like to be a UTA student. That's why I signed up.

I know what it's like to walk up the Arlington Hall stairs with groceries because the elevator is broken (again), or be thirsty and the Nedderman hall water fountain runs dry (again). I know what it's like to walk through construction to go to a class where the professor is given insufficient equipment to teach. I'm fed up, and I'm going to do something about it.



PLACE 6

GAVIN SMITH

Your Voice, Your Future, Your Senator!

As a dedicated student and advocate for our community, I am committed to ensuring that every engineering student has the resources, opportunities, and support needed to excel. I want to improve campus resources, strengthen student representation, and promote innovation and collaboration.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



PLACE 1

JAYSEN JOHNSON

Proven Leadership. Real Experience. Even Stronger Representation. Jaysen Johnson for Liberal Arts Senator.

I am honored to announce my candidacy for Liberal Arts Senator BALLOT #1. My commitment to student representation began in high school as Student Body President and Vice President in STUCO. Now, as a member of the Legislative Relations Committee in the executive branch, I have fought to ensure our voices are heard—from advocating for our rights to questioning moves that reduce our influence. I am not running for a title but for the responsibility of holding the Senate accountable. Stand firm. I will challenge the status quo, call out actions misaligned with UTA values, and work tirelessly to enact real change for Liberal Arts students. Your vote is a vote for a Senate that truly represents you! Jaysen Johnson Ballot #1 Liberal Arts Senator



PLACE 5

NATHAN SULLIVAN

Sullivan for Senate

I've spent the last semester working at the Capitol learning the nuances of government and public policy. I want my next step to be coming home to represent those around me. I got elected once, let's get it done again. Sullivan for senate

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH INNOVATION



WRITE-IN

MARCUS OTERO

I'll Represent You! I'll Listen to You! I'll Do My Part for You!

I have served as your Nursing /CONHI Senator since the beginning of Fall 2024, and I've used my position to give those I represent a voice. I understand that many in out college are transfer and commuter students, and I used this knowledge to propose changes such as adding new microwaves to the UC. I also was one of the leading advocates to increase accessibility to the UTA theater, and I have more ambitions that I'm looking forward to proposing to improve the UTA experience. I'm also involved in my community as a volunteer at Neuro Fitness Foundation, and a member of SOKS. Most of all I'm willing to listen to all students. Help me continue the Mav Mission!

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE



PLACE 1

NIYATI KHANAL

*I've got the protons —
no room for negativity!*

As a dedicated science student, I understand the challenges of balancing coursework, research, and campus life. I am running for Senator of the College of Science to push for better access to lab resources, increased funding for student research, and more networking opportunities with professionals in the field. I am committed to being a strong voice for all science students and making sure our needs are prioritized.



PLACE 2

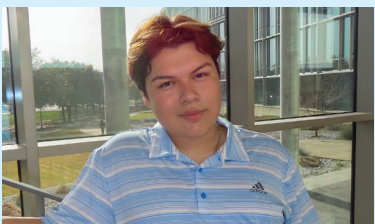
UMER AZEEM

Leadership. Hope. Unwavering. Results with resolve.

The choice for a better future.

As a student pursuing a degree in biology on the pre-med track, I'm running for a seat as a student senator to amplify the voices of the people around me. My experience in past leadership positions has given me knowledge about the importance of transparency and effective advocacy. I'm committed to being a voice for the people and ensuring that our needs are met. Most importantly, I am committed to pursuing what is right and moral for all. I will be an active member who is dedicated to building a supportive community, and I will strive to maintain fairness and justice for everyone.

AMBASSADORS



PLACE 1

MARTIN CAMARILLO

*One community one voice,
let's make History together*

My name is Martin Camarillo , and I'm honored to be a candidate for UTA ambassador Arredondo Resendiz . As the oldest of seven children from immigrant parents, I'm a first-generation student. I'm the first in my family to graduate high school, earn the IB Diploma, and pursue a Biochemistry degree with a Public Health minor. Throughout my journey, I've faced challenges, but I've worked hard to break barriers and redefine what's possible, not just for me but for others. My vision for UTA ambassador is to create a community that values diversity, inclusivity, and culture. I believe leadership is about collaboration and ensuring everyone feels seen and valued. I hope to earn your support in creating unity here at UTA.



PLACE 3

SOFIA HERNANDEZ URIBE

Be there Be down Be you

I decided to run for UTA Ambassador because I believe every student should have a college experience to be proud of and enjoy. College is what you make of it, and I want to make sure that no one misses out on opportunities to have fun, connect, and grow personally. No one should be disconnected or uninvolved

when UTA has so many amazing events, activities, and resources. I want to be someone who helps students get involved and gain meaningful experiences here on campus. As a team, I believe that we can create an inclusive community that allows students to thrive!



PLACE 4

JASKIR SINGH

*Leadership You Can Trust,
A Voice for Every Maverick!*

I am contesting for UTA Ambassador to be the voice of students and ensure their concerns are heard. My active participation in the Social Work Council, Mission Arlington, and donation drives reflects my dedication to community service and student welfare. UTA has given me many opportunities, and I wish to give back by representing students and working towards their betterment. My ultimate goal is to work in governance and advocate for positive change in society. As an Ambassador, I will strive to enhance student engagement, foster inclusivity, and strengthen our campus community. With my passion for leadership and service, I am fully committed to making a meaningful impact at UTA.



PLACE 5

ALONZO SAVAGE

Alonzo Savage-Savage Strength for Student Success.

Becoming a UTA Ambassador will allow for me to help other students get involved on campus and to help them socialize more in order for them to learn more about themselves and the community around them!



PLACE 6

ETHAN GUERRA

*From frustration to action,
let's get it done.*

I know what it's like to be a UTA student. That's why I signed up. I know what it's like to walk up the Arlington Hall stairs with groceries because the elevator is broken (again), or be thirsty and the Nedderman hall water fountain runs dry (again). I know what it's like to walk through construction to go to a class where the professor is given insufficient equipment to teach. I'm fed up, and I'm going to do something about it.



PLACE 8

MARCOS SLATER

DONT WAIT, VOTE 8!!!

If you're looking for a dedicated extrovert who looks to improve campus involvement, then vote me, Marcos Slater. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

I am running to be one of your next UTA Ambassadors because I plan to emphasize the upkeep of long lasting traditions and represent UTA with pride. Having just served a term, I am already familiar with the UTA Ambassador role. With another term I will expand on current traditions, such as the campus spirit horses. I also have other experience in leadership and management from my work as an Instructor for a K-12 high school program, math tutor, and technology operator at my Church. So with that being said, my current involvement, along with my skills to lead and connect, make me a great choice to be your next UTA Ambassador.



PLACE 11

SAVANNA COOPER

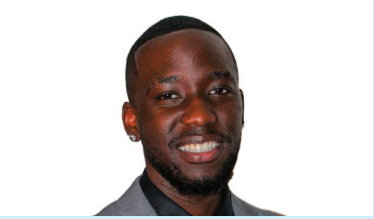
Ease In Comfortability And Rise In Positivity

I am running for ambassador to take on the opportunity to develop myself as a leader, assist in creating change as well as ensuring the comfortability of students in our Maverick community. For the time I have been here on campus with school and social life, I have felt that UT Arlington is a home away from home, as well as for many others. I have seen myself as a leader in small group settings but I have wanted to create a positive influence on a bigger scale. I am a good candidate for ambassador because of my compassion towards others, critical thinking and the efficiency I provide in accomplishing my academic goals as well as my goals for my future.



PLACE 12

GABRIEL MBONU



PLACE 13

JAKINDA OPONDO

Keep it real, keep it Maverick – Vote Jakinda

As a proud Maverick, I am running for UTA Ambassador to represent our diverse student body with leadership, service, and school spirit. In my role as the Community Service Chair for the Black Student Association and through active involvement in multiple organizations, I have dedicated my time to fostering unity, engagement, and positive change on campus. My background in event planning, mentorship, and community outreach has equipped me with the skills to uplift and connect students from all walks of life. I am committed to celebrating UTA's rich culture, advocating for every student's voice, and creating opportunities for everyone to thrive.



PLACE 14

BRENEN ROSALES

*You want someone supreme?
Vote number fourteen!*

I am running for UTA Ambassador because I want to continue to support and help the UTA community grow! I feel as though my experience as Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. current president can help not only bring a new insight, but also bring helpful leadership qualities to the UTA Ambassadors!

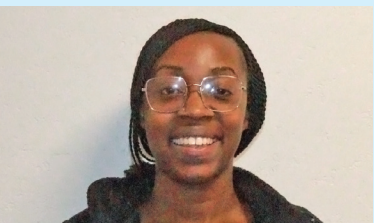


PLACE 15

AARON ZAVALA

Leading with Maverick Pride

My name is Aaron Zavala, and I am eager to become a UTA Ambassador because I am passionate about leadership, tradition, and making a meaningful impact on campus. As a dedicated student, I strive to go the extra mile, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where every Maverick's voice is heard. UTA is built on strong traditions and endless opportunities, and I am committed to upholding these values while inspiring other to do the same. Serving as an ambassador means more than just representing the university it's about creating connections, embracing diversity, and leading with integrity. Through commitment and enthusiasm, I aim to enhance student experiences, bridge communities, and leaving a lasting imprint at UTA. Together, we can shape the future and strengthen Maverick Pride!



PLACE 16

LATERIA DORSEY

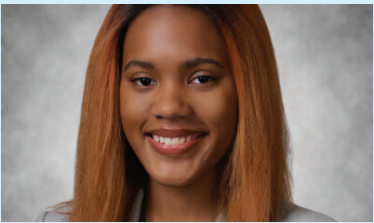


PLACE 18

CARLEE AVILA

Voting might be on April Fools but voting is never foolish. Vote me #18!!

I would like to serve UTA and becoming an Ambassador would allow me to do that in lots of ways. Having school spirit and pride is important to integrate into UTA as a community. I would like to spread this and encourage others to participate in UTA pride.



PLACE 19

MAKAYLAN HANGER

What does Makaylan stand for?

*Motivated to lead Advocating for you
Kindness and fairness Always listening
Your voice matters Leader in action
Aspiring for change Navigating a better future*

My interest in running for an Ambassador for UTA stems from past experiences of leadership and service. During my senior year of high school, I was an ambassador for my class as well as student body president and class president. My experience in these roles makes me the perfect candidate for this position. I have navigated through many situations working these positions that have strengthened my knowledge in leadership. I know that I am the perfect candidate for this position. Given the opportunity, I will do everything possible to make great use of my leadership skills as well as advocate for the students of UTA.



PLACE 20

CHISOM ONWUCHULUBA



PLACE 21

LACEY ANN GARCIA

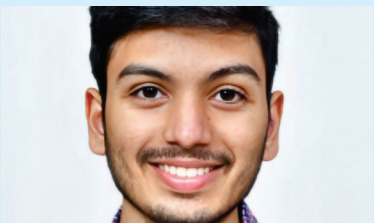


WRITE-IN

JULIE RASMUSSEN

Empowering Mavericks, Building Connections, Creating Change.

Together, we can strengthen school spirit, amplify student voices, and shape a brighter future for UTA. As a proud member of the UTA community, I am running for UTA Ambassador to foster inclusivity, engagement, and student success. My goal is to bridge the gap between students and campus resources, ensuring that every voice is heard and every student feels empowered to thrive. With a deep passion for leadership, service, and collaboration, I will work to enhance student experiences, promote school spirit, and represent UTA with integrity. By advocating for meaningful initiatives and fostering a sense of belonging, I am committed to making a lasting impact. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected Maverick family.



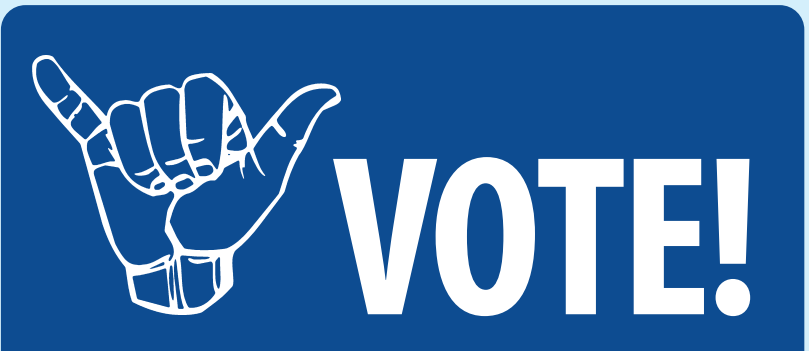
WRITE-IN

NISCHAL PARAKOTI

Leading with Heart, Ambassador from the Start #ReadyToLead*

As an Ambassador, my goal is to seize every opportunity I get to elevate the experience we have on campus by sharing the spirit and traditions of UTA.

Since the beginning of my journey at UTA, the engagement opportunities offered had really helped me get more involved on campus and feel connected. I wanted my fellows to feel the same way; through advertising university happenings, I directed my efforts towards making UTA a welcoming home for every Maverick. As an Ambassador, I aim to utilize every opportunity to better our campus life by sharing the spirit and traditions of UTA. So Mavs, join hands with me in making our university an even more dynamic and welcoming place.



THE COMMUNITY

National museum honors past, fuels future

The over 100,000-square-foot museum is strengthening the area's growth, but the stories behind it means more to officials and residents.

BY DANGLE
The Shorthorn staff

Melissa Clay finds herself in shock when driving around the Arlington Entertainment District.

"Arlington is not as big as Dallas, but this is where all of the action is at," Clay said.

Last year, she moved to Dallas after two years of living by Arlington's Six Flags Over Texas. Clay hasn't returned to the area until this one reason: the National Medal of Honor Museum.

The over 100,000-square-foot museum, located at 1861 AT&T Way, opened to the public this week after three years of construction. The museum is the latest component to the growth of the Entertainment District, which houses multiple stadiums, museums and amusement parks, and is expected to strengthen the area's tourism and businesses.

The city saw almost 16 million visitors in 2023, who contributed \$2.8 billion in spending, according to the Arlington Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The National Medal of Honor Museum is expected to add anywhere between 600,000 to a million visitors annually, said Michael Jacobson, president and CEO of the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

Jacobson doesn't have the exact numbers on the museum's economic impact, but he can estimate.

If a visitor stays an extra day in Arlington to see the museum and spends around \$250, multiplied by 16 million visitors, that number will show the power of getting people to stay, he said.

"The National Medal of Honor Museum changes the game in the Entertainment District," Jacobson said.

Four exhibitions are happening simultaneously at the nearby Arlington Museum of Art to serve audiences of all ages.

Less than half a mile away, the Texas Rangers are gearing up for their home opening game at Globe Life Field, which can host around 40,000 spectators.

Loews Hotels, a New York company, has opened two hotels in the area within a three-minute walking distance of each other.

AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, hosts events and concerts during the offseason. Choctaw Stadium is home to two sports teams: the North Texas Soccer Club and the United Football League's Arlington Renegades, which both play this spring.

While these happenings would appear unrelated, they all reflect a



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Fireworks light up the sky during the National Medal of Honor Museum's Grand Opening: Mission to Inspire Spectacular on March 22 in Arlington. Along with fireworks, drones were also present throughout the show.

vision — one that would bring more foot traffic to the Arlington Entertainment District.

"This area has just erupted," Arlington resident Jane Morrow Wright said.

Morrow Wright moved to Arlington when she was 5 and the city might not have even had 25,000 people. After years of moving around, she relocated back to Arlington 11 years ago. She's not going anywhere anymore, she said. She's home.

"It's so fun to come to the ball games and to go to the art museum now down here. Arlington has been smart about what they've done," she said.

Jacobson said that about 40 Arlington business leaders are going through leadership training focusing on the values of the National Medal of Honor.

"The National Medal of Honor Foundation and Museum have a great respect and value for Arlington and the community that has welcomed them, and they go out of their way to make sure that Arlington remains connected in everything that they do," he said.

Hurst, Texas, resident Beverly Ihnfeldt, who attended the museum's grand opening event, still remembered the Arlington of the mid-'70s, when she and her roommate lived across from what is now AT&T Stadium.

None of the development was here. "It was just houses and pastures and stuff, and it's just like, 'Oh my gosh, how much they can cram in,'" Ihnfeldt said.



The Shorthorn: Dang Le

Dallas resident Melissa Clay wears a photo of her late husband on her neck while attending the National Medal of Honor Museum's Grand Opening: Mission to Inspire Spectacular on March 22 in Arlington. Clay's husband, who served in the U.S. Army, died in 2024.

She's happy about the changes. "Anytime we keep having growth, it's a good thing," she said.

Jacobson feels conflicted about the conversation surrounding the museum's economic impact.

He understands its power in generating money. He has thought about the brand value as nationwide eyes point toward Arlington.

He just doesn't want people to forget about the museum's larger meaning.

"The economic impact of the National Medal of Honor Museum wasn't, in my mind, a key part of the equation," Jacobson said. "This is about capturing the values of the recipients and celebrating those attributes like integrity and valor and courage, and educating the public on those values in action and trying

to inspire people to do bigger and better things."

Donations covered most of the cost of building the National Medal of Honor Museum.

The institution has received funding from several high-profile donors, including a \$20 million donation from Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones in 2021 and \$30 million from Kenneth Griffin, the billionaire head of the hedge fund company Citadel, in 2023.

"Anyone who is successful in business has at times stood on the shoulders of others," Jones said in a 2021 press release. "Never in my life have I had the opportunity to stand beside those who have given so much for the defense of freedom and our way of life. Medal of Honor recipients represent the very best

of America and the values to which all heroes aspire. Supporting this project is a privilege."

Britton Cunningham Merritt, Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce vice president of Marketing and Communications, said the museum is different from FIFA games or the college football national championship that will take place in the area.

Unlike those events that come into existing spaces, the Arlington community has watched the National Medal of Honor Museum go from the site selection to the finalized construction, Cunningham Merritt said.

"We've had five years to really take it in and see that this would come to fruition," she said.

Clay, a Dallas resident, had to mentally prepare herself for the museum's opening.


Last January, Clay's husband, who served in the U.S. Army, died at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital. The city affected her heavily enough that her psychiatrist suggested she move somewhere else.

She left for Dallas that April and didn't come back until now, Clay said.

Memories flooded back to her as she sat at Mark Holtz Lake to watch the museum's grand opening. She wore his picture on a necklace. She remembered the Rangers and Cowboys games they went to together. From their house, they once were able to see the museum's construction.

She may move back to Arlington after all, she said.

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THE STORIES

Honor leaves lasting legacy in Arlington

Recognizing the impact and commitment of four people throughout the community

Architect Rafael Viñoly

The vision for the National Medal of Honor Museum began with architect Rafael Viñoly, who died of an aneurysm two years before the museum's opening. Yet, his legacy lives on within it.

Born in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1944, Viñoly studied at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Buenos Aires.

As the founder of Rafael Viñoly Architects, Viñoly and his architectural firm have worked on over 600 commissions for buildings such as courthouses, airports and stadiums throughout many parts of the world.

As the museum's chief architect, Viñoly's design concept is meant to evoke the burden and inspirational character traits of the Medal of Honor recipients.

The primary square structure sits 40 feet above ground, supported by five concrete columns each representing a branch of the United States Armed Forces.

The over 100,000-square-foot facility features a sunken, open courtyard, the Rotunda of Honor — the main entrance of the facility — and a public space for gathering before visitors enter the museum. A circular shape is cut out of the center of the Exhibition Hall above, allowing light to filter into the Rotunda of Honor.



The Exhibition Hall showcases the museum's core goal of inspiring acts of everyday heroism among its visitors, with artifacts interspersed within immersive storytelling presentations.

"He was really invested in this project from the very beginning and so intrigued by the whole mission," said Bassam Komati, Rafael Viñoly Architects partner. "I'm pretty sure he'd be very, very, very proud."

- Source: Viñoly Foundation and the National Medal of Honor Museum

Col. Neel E. Kearby

While some stories faded into history, the actions of Medal of Honor recipients are forever engraved into the nation's legacy.

From 1923 to 1949, UTA was called the North Texas Agricultural College, a two-year academic institution offering courses in military science and vocational education among other studies. It is also where Medal of Honor recipient Neel E. Kearby attended from 1930-1931.

In 1934, he enrolled in UT Austin to pursue a degree in business administration. By the time he received his diploma in 1937, the world was on the brink of war, and he later enlisted into the U.S. Army Air Corps as a flying cadet.

His bravery would soon become worthy of the Medal of Honor.

Less than a month after he was promoted to colonel, Kearby shot down six Japanese aircrafts during World War II, the most for an American fighter pilot at the time, saving the life of his comrades. He was awarded the Medal of Honor on Oct. 11, 1943, for this mission.

The following year, Col. Kearby was shot down while leading a three-plane formation over Wewak, New Guinea. His legacy lives on through the National Medal of Honor Museum's Neel Kearby Theater.

Aside from the Medal of Honor, Ke-



arby also received five Air Medals, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Silver Stars and the Purple Heart. A life-sized commemorative statue of him sits outside City Center Plaza in Arlington.

"He's the son of the city of Arlington," said Lt. Col. Greg LeClair, UTA military science professor. "To have that right here is a huge honor to him."

- Source: UTA Corps of Cadets, Texas State Historical Association, Air Force Historical Support Division and City of Arlington

Gen. Richard E. Cavazos

Medal of Honor recipient Richard E. Cavazos attended UTA, then called North Texas Agricultural College, from 1947 to 1949, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and Sam Houston Rifles drill team.

During a battle in June 1953 in Sagimak, Korea, when enemy fire began to overwhelm Cavazos' company, he followed orders to withdraw his men. But, he repeatedly returned to his outpost alone to search for missing servicemembers.

He put himself in danger to assist his injured servicemembers until he cleared the battlefield.

Only then did he accept medical aid.

Once he returned to the U.S. in the fall of 1953, he was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, which was renamed Fort Cavazos in his honor May 9, 2023.

His bravery and unwavering commitment to his men earned him the Silver Star and Distinguished Service Cross, one of the second-highest awards for valor in the military.

In 1976, he was appointed the first Hispanic brigadier general in the U.S. Army. He continued to serve until 1984 and retired as a four-star general with 33 years of service under his belt.

Gen. Cavazos died in 2017 at the age of 88 due to Alzheimer's disease complications.



In January 2025, former President Joe Biden awarded him the Medal of Honor, alongside others who served in the Korean War.

"That is the ultimate embodiment of courage and commitment and sacrifice. He's risking his own life every time, time and time again," said Mike Caldwell, director of the Center for the Elevation of Honor at the National Medal of Honor Museum's Griffin Institute.

- Source: U.S. Army and the UTA Cadet Corps Alumni Council

Arlington Mayor Jim Ross

Arlington Mayor Jim Ross' life, shaped by the discipline of the U.S. military and a diverse journey of public service, has forged him into the leader he is today. Ross is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, former SWAT team member, lawyer, police officer and business owner.

Ross joined the Marine Corps in the late '70s as a teenager and served for four years. He said the leadership programs they had taught him the character traits of a leader — a lesson he's carried through every profession.

"I'll be honest, I needed the Marine Corps a whole lot more than they needed me," he said.

Service has always been at the core of Ross' work, be it in his 13 years with the Arlington Police Department or his time representing harmed victims as a lawyer, he said. For Ross, it has always been about giving back.

As the mayor, giving back also extends to Arlington's deep roots in veteran and military history.

Ross chairs the Veteran Affairs Task Force for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and has worked to ensure veterans in Arlington are supported with the resources they need.

Ross said he is proud of the Arlington



Valor Alliance, which connects veterans with service organizations. He is working on a proposal for a Veterans Village, a hub offering transitional housing, therapy, job placement and more.

"Arlington is what I would call 'veteran proud,'" he said, "We are honored to provide services and respect and honor for the men and women who have served this country."

Written by Shelby Carter, Leslie Orozco and Taylor Sansom; Illustrations by Haley Walton

CROSSWORDS

Across

1

Stratego piece

4

Horse course

8

What a llama likes to do

12

Jai _____

13

Wing (Fr.)

14

Secret message

15

Squirrel's stash

16

Lambs

17

Talipot palm leaf

18

Kaput

19

Salad cheese

20

Girder material

21

Visored cap

22

Sea eagle

23

Fruitcake item

24

Imitate

26

Related

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Tartan cap

31

Atacama Desert site

34

"You said it, brother!"

35

Athos, to Porthos

36

Ely of Tarzan

37

Goat god

39

Musical ability

41

Thai river

42

Suffix with infant

43

Crowning

45

Should, with "to"

47

"Fables in Slang" author

48

Barbershop request

49

Reef dweller

50

Fawn's mother

51

Eastern newt

53

"Once ____ a time..."

57

Scarecrow stuffing

60

Skedaddle

61

City founded by Pizarro

62

Tugboat sound

63

District

64

Archipelago name

65

Malarial fever

66

Vermín

67

English prep school

68

Deteriorates

69

Requirement

70

Soak flax

Down

1

Single-masted vessel

2

Incomplete

3

Yang's opposite

4

Horse opera

5

Haiphong locale

6

Aquatic plant

7

____ Cayes, Haiti

8

Sir Walter, for one

9

Fishing need

10

Inactive

11

Freshwater duck

12

Distress signal

15

Inquire

19

Doctor's charge

20

Bright star

23

Daughter of Ea

25

Vigor

27

Castle part

28

Zingy taste

29

Nanjing nanny

30

In perfect condition

31

Alpaca young

32

Phone button

33

Arrow poison

34

Debate side

38

Swiss river

40

Seafood delicacy

44

Egg dishes

46

Howl

48

Kind of truck

49

Riviera season

50

Takes out

52

Banquet

54

Kitchen light

55

Gulf sultanate

56

Dissenting vote

57

Antares, for one

58

Like some pizza orders

59

Drubbing

60

German courtesy title

63

Pitcher's asset

64

Mal de ____

4

3

8

2

5

9

7

6

1

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

					2		5	
						6		
				9				
							2	7
8								9
		5		4		8		
7		1	3					4
2					5		4	9
	6						3	2
				7				

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THE SHORTHORN

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

I	E	R	I	S	N	W	S	L	O	R
N	O	I	E	S	L	V	E	R	E	N
A	V	I	W	V	E	R	V	E	L	O
W	H	I	T	E	T	A	M	A	I	S
N	O	D	A	N	E	S	E	D		
I	J	E	E	W	I	L	E	B	O	
J	H	O	N	O	J	O	L	I	E	
N	Y	N	E	S	E	N	V	E		
I	W	A	N	E	W	E		E	I	
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I	N	N	E	E						
T	E	E	I	S						
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E	D	O	S		E	T	I	V		
L	I	D	S		T	V	A	O		

SUDOKU

9	8	9	8	7	2	6	1	4
2	8	7	1	6	7	8	9	9
6	7	1	9	9	8	7	8	2
7	9	2	8	9	8	1	6	7
1	7	8	6	7	9	9	2	8
9	6	8	7	2	1	9	7	8
7	2	7	9	8	6	8	9	1
8	1	9	7	8	9	2	7	6
8	9	6	2	1	7	7	8	9

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THE EDUCATION

Griffin Institute inspires America’s youth

The institute completed its Moments That Matter pilot program in AISD.

BY HANNAH GARCÍA
The Shorthorn managing editor

Commitment. Integrity. Sacrifice. Courage. These are the core values the National Medal of Honor Museum’s Griffin Institute hopes to instill in American youth.

The Griffin Institute aims to inspire, equip and connect people to live the values of the Medal of Honor. The center explores the stories and lessons of recipients through national and regional conferences, seminars, forums, team-building experiences and immersive programs.

One of these programs Moments That Matter takes middle school students on a Medal of Honor character journey. The lessons and stories highlighted seek to motivate and provide participants with practical tools and skills to put these values into action, becoming their best selves for others.

Jacqueline Kennedy, Griffin Institute associate vice president of education and experiences, said the group recently completed its pilot program in the Arlington Independent School District.

The full program consists of five modules, each with five lessons spanning about 15 to 20 minutes. It maintains flexibility in deciding how many values are taught and at what grade levels, how much time is spent working on lessons and taking students to the museum, Kennedy said.

“Start with one value, see how it feels and how it reso-

nates with your students and where it all starts coming together for them,” she said. “We saw that in Arlington and it was quite amazing to see how students really latched on to some of the content and how they rolled it into their own lives.”

Seventh-grade students at Gunn Junior High and Fine Arts and Dual Language Academy participated in the commitment portion of the program during the fall and will be one of the first student groups to tour the museum this spring.

By the 2025-26 school year, all 10 AISD middle schools will be enrolled, Kennedy said.

Matt Varnell, Gunn Junior High principal, said most of the lessons asked participants how they practice commitment and to think about the specialties they have to offer, allowing students to self-reflect and determine how they can become the best version of themselves.

Varnell said lessons were taught during social studies to ensure students had access to the program. The Medal of Honor spans the country, and although Texas history is taught in seventh grade, the school felt this was a good segue into eighth-grade American history.

Bethany Turner, Gunn Junior High social studies department lead and seventh-grade Texas history teacher, said she was able to connect the program’s overarching themes of leadership and sacrifice to the regular curriculum.

“Self-sacrifice and service, being willing to sacrifice your-



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

The Griffin Institute sits March 23 in Arlington. The institute aims to inspire, equip and connect people to live the values of the Medal of Honor.

self for something that you believe in strongly,” Turner said. “You can tie that into really any part of history, not just specifically for Texas history.”

She said she loved giving the institute suggestions from herself and her students. While some lessons felt right, the students thought others could be more engaging. She said the institute was very receptive to feedback.

One of Turner’s and her students’ biggest takeaways was how the program allowed participants to slow down and think about who they are.

“Twelve and 13-year-olds don’t often have a lot of time

in their busy lives and in their developing brains where they actually sit and think about, ‘Who am I?’ and ‘What are my core values?’ and ‘What is important to me?’” she said.

Turner was able to open up and be vulnerable with her classroom as well. While her students were shy and quiet the first few weeks, she said they became more willing to share personal topics and thoughts with her and their peers.

“A huge part of it was comfort and confidence in being willing to share, and part of that comes with the classroom culture of having an

open and accepting dialogue,” she said.

While not in a classroom on his day-to-day, Varnell said has seen the program’s influence on students. The program provided individual cards of Medal of Honor recipients to participants. He soon saw them wearing these cards, like collectibles, with their student IDs.

“If they didn’t find value in it, they would’ve just thrown it away, but they see value in it, and so they’ve kept it near to them as a reminder of how they can continue to be their best selves,” he said.

Kennedy said the institute

plans to have over 8,000 students across several districts enrolled in Moments That Matter by next year.

“Developmentally, it’s the time where students are starting to think about the choices they make that define their character,” she said. “Deciding to do the right things, standing up for others or how they face challenges. It’s a ripe time to have these dedicated conversations.”

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The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

...e brought out during the National Medal of Honor Museum's Celebration of Honor on March 22 in Arlington. The museum opened its doors to the public on March 25.



The Shorthorn: Elvis Martinez-Cartagena

...nt through social media.



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Above: U.S. Army Capt. Florent “Flo” Groberg, Medal of Honor recipient, wears his medal during the National Medal of Honor Museum's Celebration of Honor on March 22 in Arlington. Groberg was honored in 2015 after serving in Afghanistan.

The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Left: Dignitaries gather for a dinner during the National Medal of Honor Museum's Celebration of Honor on March 22 in Arlington. Foundation members, current servicemembers and a Medal of Honor recipient spoke.

THE PAGEENTRY

Where honor takes center stage

The National Medal of Honor Museum keeps recipients’ stories of sacrifice alive

EDITORIAL

The essential value of military history

The National Medal of Honor Museum presents an opportunity for people to learn about the honor’s significance and its recipients’ stories

The Medal of Honor stands as the highest distinction in the military, yet not many people know its history or significance.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board believes people should use the National Medal of Honor Museum as an opportunity to learn what the medal represents.

THE ISSUE:

People are not educated on or connected to the history of the Medal of Honor and its recipients.

WE THINK:

The museum is an opportunity for people to learn more about the history and meaning behind the Medal of Honor and the sacrifices made to earn the distinction.

TAKE ACTION:

People should take advantage of the resources now available in Arlington to educate themselves.

Over 40 million Americans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since the Civil War, but only 3,500 servicemembers have become Medal of Honor recipients, commemorated for their acts of valor, humanity, patriotism and sacrifice.

Bernard J.D. Irwin, who voluntarily led troops to rescue 60 servicemembers in Apache Pass, Arizona, performed the first military action to earn a medal in February 1861 but did not receive his medal until 1894.

Ten months after the act, former Iowa Sen. James W. Grimes introduced legislation in Congress to promote the U.S. Navy’s efficiency by creating the Medal of Honor to recognize servicemembers who distinguished themselves in action.

Shortly after, in 1862, former Massachusetts Sen. Henry Wilson introduced a similar bill to Congress to create an Army Medal of Honor, which was signed by former President Abraham Lincoln five months later. In 1965, the Air Force introduced what now stands as the third variant of the Medal of Honor.

In 1863, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton presented the first Medals of Honor to the six surviving members of the Andrews’ Raiders, a group of men who attempted to hobble a railroad supply line in



The Shorthorn: Jay Montoya

Georgia. Private Jacob Parrott was the first to ever receive the medal.

Every recipient has distinguished themselves through courageous and fearless acts beyond the call of duty, in the face of danger, risking their lives for the mission and their comrades.

Medal of Honor recipients are the only individuals saluted by all ranks of the military, including the president, and the distinction is the only one worn around the neck, according to the National Medal of Honor Museum website.

While about 74% of Americans agree the Medal of Honor is a distinctive recognition, only 23% can name a recipient, according to a 2023 survey by global research company Ipsos.

Compared to the 69% who can name an Olympic gold medalist, the 59% who can name a Nobel Peace Prize recipient or the 55% who can name an Oscar winner,

this shows a lack of military history education.

With Arlington and UTA’s rich military background, including the university’s history as a military academy and the city’s pivotal geographic position during the Civil War, residents should educate themselves on the meanings behind the medal and the military history that surrounds us.

The Medal of Honor is not something that is won, it is earned and bestowed upon the recipients, often serving as a reminder of the sacrifices of its servicemembers, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society website.

It’s not simply about recognizing the decoration, it’s about understanding the deep history and significance behind the medal and its recipients. The Medal of Honor signifies unparalleled courage and sacrifice. Learning its recipient’s stories is crucial to preserving that

military history and the values these heroes exemplify.

These stories provide more than just historical facts. They offer lessons on leadership, resilience, loyalty and the importance of serving others.

For those in areas with a strong military presence, like Arlington, this knowledge can foster a sense of pride and respect for the men and women who have shaped our nation’s history with their bravery.

Learning the medal’s history also teaches people the values our nation was built upon. It’s through recognizing these personal sacrifices that we can appreciate the immense responsibility that comes with serving the country.

The National Medal of Honor Museum is an opportunity for people to bridge this knowledge gap through exhibits and learning opportunities that tell the stories of these heroic individuals.

It’s more than just a museum — it’s an opportunity to understand the legacy of service and sacrifice that continuously impacts our nation.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board is made up of opinion editor Leslie Orozco; editor-in-chief Christine Vo; copy desk chief Jinelle Sánchez; associate news editor Amanda Aldridge; engagement editor Sairam Marupudi; copy editor James Sanderson; and engagement producer Jessica Arnold. Sports editor Matthew Tibebe and news reporters Shelby Carter and Taylor Sansom were not present for this discussion. Multimedia editor Ronaldo Bolaños attended in Tibebe’s place.

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ESSAY

A US Marine veteran’s fight for purpose

The transition from military to civilian life isn’t just about new routines — it’s about rediscovering your identity.

At 17 years old, with just the clothes on my back and orders in a yellow envelope grasped in my sweaty palms, I left behind everyone and everything I had ever known to join the U.S. Marine Corps.

I knew transitioning into the military lifestyle would be challenging.

What I didn’t know was that the nervous knot that lingered in my stomach for months and made me question my decision would be nothing compared to the unknown I would confront after my five-year contract.

I didn’t know the “real world” would be so difficult to navigate.

The Marine Corps gave me structure, purpose and a sense of belonging I had never known before. I was part of something bigger than myself. When I wore that uniform, I knew who I was and what I stood for.



The Shorthorn: Ryleigh Hood

Despite the strong sense of pride I felt, I counted down the days until my contract ended. I was ready for it all to end: the early mornings, the long work hours, the overwhelming responsibility, the overbearing control over my life.

I was ready to live a “normal” life.

But no one ever told me that the person I had become was no longer

compatible with my prior idea of normality.

I moved away from my duty station and quickly realized that the world outside the military didn’t have a place for me like the Marine Corps had. Just like that, I was back at square one. I had to figure out a new identity and find a new purpose all while adjusting to a completely different world.

While there are resources like education benefits, health care and job training, they couldn’t help me rebuild what I lost.

I figured that by going to UTA, one of the best ranked colleges for veterans, I would be stepping into a community that would help me feel whole again. I expected to meet other veterans and rediscover the sense of belonging and

purpose I had lost.

But, after speaking with other veterans, I realized that the most significant obstacles are internal, not external.

MEGAN PATRICK



Patrick is a psychology sophomore and Community Voices columnist for The Shorthorn.

Join the discussion by commenting online at theshorthorn.com.

We’re forced to rebuild who we are, figure out where we fit and redefine what it means to have purpose without the uniform.

While the resources at UTA are valuable, they can’t do the internal work for us.

They can’t tell us who we are outside of the uniform or give us back the purpose and sense of belonging we had. What we need, perhaps more than anything, is understanding and patience from ourselves and those around us.

The hardest part was realizing that it’s okay not to have all the answers right away. The key is to keep moving forward, even if the pace feels slow, even if the road isn’t as straightforward as I imagined it would be when I left the military.

In the struggle and uncertainty, I’ve learned that we discover our true selves, and that’s what makes the journey worthwhile.

Reinvention doesn’t have a clear timeline. Some days feel like progress, and some feel like setbacks. But slowly, piece by piece, I’m learning to rebuild, one small step at a time.

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