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# ***BEARINGS: SPRING 2019***

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VOLUME 3

THE CAPITAL BATTALION NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER  
TRAINING CORPS



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## ***NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE TRADITION AT GEORGETOWN***

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### **MIDN 3/C LORIO**

One of the very first things I did when I stepped foot on Georgetown's campus was join the Georgetown University Grilling Society, or GUGS for short. The mission of the organization is simple: grill burgers, have fun, and make some friends along the way. In the craziness of my first semester as a Midshipman, it was intensely valuable to have an opportunity to relax and have some fun on a Friday afternoon. I attended every grill I could. I flipped burgers, unloaded charcoal, and dumped ashes, and before I knew it I found myself on the board of the club.

I took office at the end of December 2018, and I was eager to get to work. I had tons of ideas for improvements and recipes and activities, and from the very first meeting I knew that this new board would be able to get the job done. We knew how to work as a team, and we all had a common vision for what we wanted the club to be. As fun as grilling can be, we all felt that something was missing from the GUGS experience: community service.

We went back and forth about how we should integrate service into the club, but the answer really was obvious. We make food together, so we decided that we would make sandwiches for a local food bank. We looked at our options and decided to work with the Georgetown Ministry Center as our distribution site. We set our date, reserved our location, got approval from our advisory board, acquired our supplies, and in late February we were ready to go.

We had an incredible turnout of club members when everything finally came together. The board hadn't been alone when we said something was missing, and the day of community service was a great hit. We made over one hundred PB&J sandwiches for the GMC and delivered them to the center that day. I set the sandwiches on the counter at the reception desk and almost immediately people were taking them and enjoying a lunch.

As aspiring Naval officers, it is essential that we remember that our Armed Forces are service organizations at their core. The military exists to serve the nation and its people, and it is important that we exemplify this on a smaller scale in our local communities. One hundred sandwiches will not further our national interests, reduce the cost of housing in DC, or help someone find a job, but they will fill one hundred stomachs and remind those who made them of our commitment to our community around us.

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## ***“THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT”***

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### **MIDN 3/C COHEN**

On 26FEB19, CAPT. Peter Wikul, A retired Navy SEAL and the bearer of the title of Bullfrog 13, came to speak to a small group of midshipmen about his experience in the Navy Special Warfare Community and the lessons that he has learned during his time in the Navy. This was an incredible opportunity as members of Special Warfare communities do not frequently come to speak to our students.

CAPT. Wikul’s discussion evolved around his three rules: one should take care of their troops as they are their greatest asset; one should never compromise their personal integrity; and when called upon to fight, fight to win. While talking, the Captain did not only relate these rules to life in the military, but also life in the civilian world. We discussed the importance of loyalty, integrity, determination, and perseverance.

These lessons are incredibly important in my opinion because, as future Ensigns and Second Lieutenants of the US Navy and Marine Corps, we will be thrown into situations that we will have no prior experience with and will be responsible for the lives of Sailors and Marines as well as the success of the task at hand. Understanding that our troops are our greatest asset, should we choose to act on that understanding, can carry us a long way in the fleet.

Maintaining personal integrity is also a very valuable lesson. One, personal integrity isn’t something that can be renewed or repaired. As the Capital Battalion Executive Officer says, “Your integrity is like a rock. Every time you compromise it, it chips the rock. If you chip it too much, the rock disappears.” As newly commissioned officers, we will need to earn the trust of our command. We will have the basic authority and respect that comes with our rank but that can only take us so far.

Without perseverance it is very hard to achieve anything in life, not just in the military. As officers in the US military, we will be given tasks that make life seem like there is too much to do in too little time, but it is one who perseveres who is successful. Whether it is as college students in DC or as sailors in the fleet, perseverance is the key to life. On a more external note, perseverance also is a testament to one’s character. A person who perseveres is a person who is passionate and confident because it shows that they do not give up at the first sighting of adversity and are confident in their abilities to properly complete a task.

My favorite lesson that CAPT. Wikul taught us was actually on a more personal level. He and I were talking about music and he mentioned to me that, as a drummer, he never stopped practicing, even when he was deployed. He also told me that I should never give up what I love, be it music, writing, or art, because those are the things that people turn to when the days get rough. This taught me a broader lesson as well, though. This taught me that if you love something and it’s important to you, you will always find the time or a way to do it. “I don’t have time” or “I’m not able to” is never an excuse, just ask CAPT. Wikul.