COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN INSTRUCTION 1650.18

From: Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: MIDSHIPMAN JOHN M. MARSHALL ’85 MEMORIAL GOAT AWARD

Encl: (1) Plan of Action and Milestones
      (2) Sample Request for Nomination Memo to Company Officers
      (3) Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award Nominee Information Sheet
      (4) Sample Selection Board Results Letter
      (5) Sample Recipient Notification Letter

1. Purpose. To promulgate procedures for the nomination, selection, and award process for the Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award.

2. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to personnel of the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) involved in the nomination, selection and presentation of the Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award.

3. Background. Midshipman John M. Marshall, USNA Class of 1985 from Simsbury, CT, was killed in a car accident during the fall semester of his Second Class year at the Academy. This award, dedicated in memory of Midshipman Marshall, is designated to recognize a midshipman who has faced and overcome adversity during their lifetime. Specifically, a “Graduate Who Overcame Adversity to Triumph” (GOAT).

4. Eligibility. The Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award will be presented annually to a First Class Midshipman, in good standing, who has faced and overcome adversity during their lifetime.

5. Method of Nomination, Selection and Presentation

   a. Intramural Program Manager- Commandant Operations will serve as the Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award and be responsible for carrying out the procedures provided in this instruction. A Plan of Action and Milestones is provided in enclosure (1).

   b. During the eighth week of the spring semester, the coordinator will provide enclosure (2) to each Company Officer.
c. Company Officers will forward a nominee to their respective Battalion Officers during the 12th week of the spring semester. Battalion Officers will screen nominees and forward a competitively ranked list of nominees to the coordinator during the 13th week of the spring semester. The coordinator will hold the nominations until the selection board is convened.

d. The Midshipman John M. Marshall '85 Memorial GOAT Award Selection Board composition will consist of the Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen and the Battalion Officers. The board will normally meet during the 14th week of the spring semester.

e. The board will forward recommendations in writing to the Commandant of Midshipmen by the 15th week of the spring semester.

f. The Midshipman John M. Marshall '85 Memorial GOAT Award recipient will be notified of their selection by a letter from the Commandant of Midshipmen during the 16th week of the spring semester.

g. An award of $1,985 will be presented to the selected midshipman. Additionally, the awardee will have the opportunity to select a Naval Academy priority strategic initiative to which $6,515 will be donated in their name.

6. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned for the standard subject identification codes (SSIC) 1000 through 13000 series per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at https://portal.seacnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local records manager or the DON/AA DRMD program office.

7. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, the Staff Director will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or canceled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

J. P. MCDONOUGH III
Releasability and distribution: This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically via the USNA Commandant Web Page, https://www.usna.edu/Commandant/comdinst.php
MIDSHIPMAN JOHN M. MARSHALL ’85 MEMORIAL GOAT AWARD
PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES (SPRING SEMESTER)

ACTION Complete by Completed
1. Distribute nomination instructions to Company Officers Week 8
2. Remind Company Officers that nominations are due to their Battalion Officers during Week 12 Week 10
3. Remind Battalion Officers that their final nominee package is due to the coordinator during Week 13 Week 12
4. Schedule selection board during Week 15 with all board members Week 12
5. Collect nominations from Battalion Officers Week 13
6. Conduct selection board Week 15
7. Notify award recipient via memo from Commandant of Midshipmen Week 16
8. Coordinate with recipient their desired USNA priority strategic initiative to which funding will be donated in their name. Week 16
9. Present Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial Award Comm Week

Enclosure (1)
From: Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial Award Coordinator  
To: Company Officers  
Subj: REQUEST FOR NOMINATION FOR MIDSHIPMAN JOHN M. MARSHALL ’85 MEMORIAL GOAT AWARD  
Ref: (a) COMDTMIDNINST 1650.18  

1. Per reference (a), complete the attached Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award nominee information sheet on a First Class Midshipman in your Company who is in good standing and who has faced and overcome adversity during their lifetime. Specifically, a “Graduate Who Overcame Adversity to Triumph” (GOAT). Forward this package to your Battalion Officer by 8 April.  

2. Upon forwarding your nominations, Battalion Officers will screen the nominees and rank those most deserving of this award. Battalion Officers will then submit this package to the Coordinator, who will maintain possession until the selection board is convened. Selection board composition is outlined in reference (a).  

3. The Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award will be presented during Commissioning Week. Thank you for your support.  

F. M. LAST  

Copy to:  
Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen  
Battalion Officers  

Enclosure (2)
MIDSHIPMAN JOHN M. MARSHALL ’85 MEMORIAL GOAT 
AWARD NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Name: ____________________________  Company: ____ Alpha: _______

1. Nominee's eligibility for award; a brief description of how the midshipman has overcome adversity to triumph:

2. Noteworthy performance while a midshipman at the Naval Academy:

3. Other relevant information/general comments:

4. Academic, performance, or conduct deficiencies (documented or pending):

Nomination forwarded by: _________________________________, _____ CO Officer

Signature: ___________________________________________________ Date: _________________

Battalion Officer Endorsement: _____________________________ Date: _________________

Enclosure (3)
COMDTMIDNINST 1650.18
20 Mar 2023

SAMPLE SELECTION BOARD RESULTS

From: Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy
To: Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: MIDSHIPMAN JOHN M. MARSHALL ’85 MEMORIAL GOAT AWARD

Ref: (a) COMDTMIDNINST 1650.18

1. Per reference (a), a board was convened on XX April to determine the 20XX recipient of the Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award. The nominees were midshipmen in good standing, nominated by their Company Officers, who faced and overcome adversity during their lifetime.

2. The board selected the following midshipmen as this year’s award recipient:

   (First M. Last name), (alpha/company)

I. M. DEPUTY

Enclosure (4)
SAMPLE RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION LETTER

(Commandant's Letterhead)

From: Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy
To: Midshipman First Class (Full name)

Subj: 20XX MIDSHIPMAN JOHN M. MARSHALL ’85 MEMORIAL GOAT AWARD

Ref: (a) COMDTMIDNINST 1650.18

1. I take great pleasure in informing you that you have been selected as a 20XX recipient of the Midshipman John M. Marshall ’85 Memorial GOAT Award.

2. Your accomplishments have distinguished you as an individual who performs above and beyond what is expected, and does so with the highest regard for success of the unit. This award recognizes your resilience and perseverance as you have strived to overcome challenging adversity in your life and triumphed.

3. Your award, consisting of a check for $1985, will be presented during Commissioning Week. You will be notified separately of the time and place of the presentation. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to choose from a list of the Naval Academy’s priority strategic Initiatives to which to $6515 will be donated in your name.

4. I congratulate you on this outstanding resilience and grit, and wish you the best of luck in future endeavors.

I. M. COMMANDANT

Enclosure (5)