



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
950 REYNOLDS ROAD
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996



10 April 2013

Dear Mr. Beck,

My name is Micah Gahagen, and I am the current Cadet Candidate Battalion Commander at the United States Military Academy Preparatory School. I had the great pleasure of meeting you at the First Annual Founder's Day Celebration here at USMAPS. First, I would like to thank you for your generous and crucial contribution that enabled the night to be an even greater success. On behalf of the Cadet Candidates, I would like to formally thank you for the sacrifice of time that you made, as well as the transparency you provided in your presentation. Personally, I believe you traveling to our school to share your personal thoughts and experiences is a testament to the sense of duty, honor, and country that is instilled at the Academy. Your display of commitment to the organization was a great example to be set and for us as Cadet Candidates. I spoke to many other Cadet Candidates about their own experience at Founder's Day, and I have attached some of their comments for you to read:

"Founder's Day was the epitome of a proper celebration here at USMAPS. I valued the stories told to the Cadet Candidates by the speaker. His stories showed the brotherly connection that forms and grows between members of the Long Gray Line. The celebration was more than just telling the Cadet Candidates about the history of Founder's Day. The Founder's Day celebration showed the Cadet Candidates what to look forward to in the future if we seize the opportunities presented to us in the next 47 months." - CC Ryan Ruscitti

"I deeply appreciate your coming and speaking to the Class of '17 on Founder's Day. Having my grandfather as a member of our fifty-year affiliation class is truly something special. Reflecting upon your presentation gave me more insight about how the Academy and the years that followed graduation changed not only my grandfather's life, but the lives of his classmates. You have made me more inspired and excited to become part of the Corps of Cadets next year and have others join the Class of '17. Thank you again for your truly inspirational words and taking the time to come and speak to the USMAPS Class of '13 and USMA Class of '17. Go Army, Beat Navy!" - CC Megan Blaney

"On behalf of all the Cadet Candidates at the United States Military Academy Prep School, I would like to sincerely thank you for speaking at our first Founder's Day. You truly provided us with a burning desire to love West Point, our fellow soldiers, and the Army as a whole. Your stories and guidance sparked my imagination and got me thinking about the amazing memories I will undoubtedly leave here with, along with the endless possibilities in store for us in the future. Leaving the auditorium with your words racing through my thoughts solidified my choice to be a cadet and eventually an Army officer. I thank you for your service and all you have done and continue to do for our class. Go Army! Beat Navy!" - CC Matthew Bowman

“I had heard from others that the friendships made here and in the Army are friendships that last, but I had never witnessed such a friendship until Mr. Beck shared his stories. I enjoyed listening to his experiences with his fellow Prepsters, and I liked his honesty as he explained the good and bad that he had encountered and overcome.” - CC John Brown III

Again, Sir, I would like to thank you for your remarkable contribution to the continued development of the Vanguard Class of 2017. Your devotion to the organization and your generosity of knowledge and time to our class will not be forgotten. Instead, it will be passed on to the other members of our class as we enter the Academy next year and strive to become the best officers in the Army!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Micah J. Gahagen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Micah J. Gahagen
CC, USMAPS
Battalion Commander