

Sendoff dinner June 8 for service-bound students

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@brianjohnsonBP

BRISTOL - Tickets are now available for the eighth annual Salute Dinner honoring 19 high school students preparing to enter the military.

The dinner will be June 8 at Nuchie's Restaurant, 164 Central St.

The program, sponsored by the Bristol Veterans Council, will begin with a social hour from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., followed by the dinner. Al Terzi will host the dinner for the sixth year and a surprise guest speaker is promised.



Brian Johnson | Staff Guests dine last year's Salute Dinner at Nuchie's Restaurant in Bristol.

Each recruit will receive a plaque and a citation signed by the General Assembly, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the house and the secretary of the state, as well as a red, white and blue tassel for his or her graduation cap.

“This is our way of showing appreciation for the young men and women who are choosing to defend you and I,” said Tim Gamache, a member of the Bristol Veterans Council. “They are a part of the less than one percent of the nation’s population tasked with defending the other 99 percent.”

Gamache said that the Salute Dinner is “enlightening” for parents as it shows them the support that their sons and daughters get from the city.

Last year, the Salute Dinner drew a record crowd of 195 people. It typically draws 125 to 150 guests, Gamache said.

“This is a very good event, the best that we hold all year,” said Gamache. “Bristol does a good job in supporting anything with the veteran community. This is one city that is always there when you need them and that appreciates the service of our veterans.”

Gamache noted that Terzi is a veteran.

“He was an interpreter for the government during the Korean War,” said Gamache. “When ground-to-air communications were intercepted, he would tell Command what they said.”

Gamache said Thomaston Savings Bank and the Main Street Community Foundation will be recognized at the dinner for “assisting the veterans community in a big way.”

Tickets are \$25, available from Tim Gamache at 860-977-2152 or by email at gmandi@sbcglobal.net.

These are the 19 students who will be honored at the Salute Dinner on June 8:

U.S. Air Force: Mersadez Chaleman, Andrew Iffland and Brandi McLaughlin.

U.S. Air Force Academy: Michael Kaminski.

U.S. Army: Cesar Acosta, Oskar Fernandez.

U.S. Marine Corps: Matt Calabro, John Duncan, Corey Hubbell, Nonilaha Keyes, Christopher Smith and Bruce Worley III.

U.S. Navy: Michael Lamoureux, Shannon Williams, Jesse Patterson, Nathan Wright and Brendan Kendrick (ROTC).

Massachusetts Maritime Academy: Vincent Penisse.

National Guard: Marcus Kabel.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.