

NEWS

# MTSU Military Science Commissions 13 New Leaders as 2nd Lieutenants



Newly commissioned U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Charity Savage, center, of Memphis, Tenn., bends slightly, allowing grandmother Mary Savage, left, best friend Ariel Smith and mother Tammy Savage to pin on the bars to her uniform Friday, May 6, during the MTSU Blue Raider Battalion spring commissioning ceremony in the Tom H. Jackson Building's Cantrell Hall. Charity Savage, who will graduate Saturday, May 7, will be receiving her Master of Science in Professional Science in biotechnology. (MTSU photo by J. Intintoli)

Newly commissioned U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Charity Savage, center, of Memphis, Tenn., bends slightly, allowing grandmother Mary Savage, left, best friend Ariel Smith and mother Tammy Savage to pin on the bars to her uniform Friday, May 6, during the MTSU Blue Raider Battalion spring commissioning ceremony in the Tom H. Jackson Building's Cantrell Hall. Charity Savage, who will graduate Saturday, May 7, will be receiving her Master of Science in Professional Science in biotechnology. (MTSU photo by J. Intintoli)

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — The former chair of the MTSU Military Science Department returned to address 13 ROTC cadets being commissioned as second lieutenants in various branches of the U.S. Army, reserves and national guard.

Regarding leadership, retired Lt. Col. Joel Miller referenced his own commissioning ceremony from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, nearly 30 years ago. Miller spoke about “leading by example and the goal as leaders, not only for the military, but for the nation in general.”

Miller spoke during the Friday, May 6, ceremony attended by a capacity crowd of family, friends and supporters in the MTSU Tom H. Jackson Building's Cantrell Hall. The commissioning ceremony is a tradition for the ROTC program, which has seen the student cadets prepare for service to their country.

“Whether you are going active duty, reserve or National Guard, your service and leadership is desired and needed beyond the realm of the profession of arms,” Miller added, mentioning the military term for leaders who build trust and confidence up and down the chain of command and with the American people they serve.

Miller is vice president of sales and

marketing for Barrett Firearms Manufacturing Inc., in Murfreesboro. He is married to Hilary Miller, director of the MTSU Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center.

The honorees, who recently received red stoles during the Graduating Veterans Stole Ceremony to wear at commencement, graduated Saturday, May 7, in Murphy Center.

Those commissioned include:

- Alexis Anderson of Memphis, Tennessee, who earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science and will be active duty in the Ordnance Branch.
- Zach Dougan of Christiana, Tennessee, who earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and will be active duty in the Ordnance Branch.
- Hayden Hittle of Lebanon, Tennessee, who earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace/professional pilot concentration and will be reserve forces duty/aviation branch with the Tennessee National Guard.
- Brenden Jones of Olive Branch, Mississippi, who earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and will be active duty in the Air Defense Artillery Branch.
- Michael Maynard of Carver, Massachusetts, who earned a bachelor's degree in commerce and will be in the Quartermaster Branch, U.S. Army Reserve.
- Joshua Muller of East Lyme, Connecticut, who earned a bachelor's degree in integrated studies and will be active duty in the Military Intelligence Branch.
- Caleb Rowland of Springfield, Tennessee, who earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace/pro pilot concentration and will be reserve forces duty in the Aviation Branch.
- Tahseen Samo of Murfreesboro, who earned a bachelor's degree in po-

litical science and will be in the Military Police Branch in the U.S. Army Reserve.

- Charity Savage of Memphis, who earned a Master of Science in Professional Science degree in biotechnology and will be active duty in the Chemical Branch.
- John Sharp of Knoxville, Tennessee, who earned a bachelor's degree in Concrete Industry Management and will be active duty in the Transportation Branch.
- Tyler Vongpanya of Murfreesboro, who earned a bachelor's degree in computer science and will be active duty in the Cyber Branch.
- Caleb Watts of Salem, Missouri, who earned a master's degree in economics and will be active duty in the Adjutant General Branch.
- Pontell Wright of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and will be active duty in the Medical Service Branch.

U.S. Army Maj. Ben Sweeney, the interim military science chair, said it was “an awesome day, to get the opportunity to see 13 men and women that have accomplished so much over four years that now are going to step out and lead America's sons and daughters. It's just a phenomenal day for them and for me, getting the opportunity to do it.”

## IN THE HUDDLE

with Coach Jennings

### One Act Of Kindness

#### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

(2 Kings 5:2–3, MSG)

It so happened that Aram, on one of its raiding expeditions against Israel, captured a young girl who became a maid to Naaman's wife. One day she said to her mistress, “Oh, if only my master could meet the prophet of Samaria, he would be healed of his skin disease.”

#### TODAY'S WORD

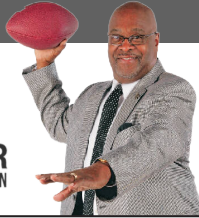
Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army that had captured a young Israelite girl and brought her back as his wife's maid. You can imagine how her life was turned upside down. Taken from her family and friends into a foreign country, she barely understood the language. Her hopes and dreams were shattered, and it's all because of Naaman. You would think she hated him. But whenever he came home and took off his armor, hidden underneath was the leprosy, eating away his body. She could have thought, “I hope you die. You wrecked my life.” But instead, she was full of mercy and offered the remedy through which he was completely healed. All because she showed kindness to someone who had done her wrong. It's easy to hold a grudge, try to pay someone back, ignore them, and make them suffer, but all that does is hold you down. JESUS says, “GOD blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” Be good to someone who doesn't deserve it..

#### PRAYER FOR TODAY

FATHER, thank YOU for showing me YOUR mercy over and over again when I didn't begin to deserve it. Help me to have a heart that is free from being vindictive toward others who have done me wrong. I want to pass the test and be good to those who don't deserve it. In JESUS' Name, Amen.

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