

March 7, 2022

To: The Cadets Hall of Fame Committee

In re: Nomination of Megh Toth for induction in the 2022 class as a “Contemporary” member

I write today because frankly I was very surprised to find out that Megh Toth has not already been inducted to the Cadets Hall of Fame. If there were a Cadets Hall of Fame Hall of Fame, Megh Toth would be the charter member, and deservedly so. It shades toward the wrong side of injustice that the best of us has not to date been properly recognized.

For anyone who may not be aware, I’ll recount the facts of Megh’s involvement with our corps: she played baritone horn from 1996 through 2000. In 2001, she joined the administrative staff and served in that capacity until 2007 (and unbelievably was *also* the tour director for the Crossmen for portions of the 2007 season). She has continually volunteered throughout the years, especially in connection with uniform and costume matters.

It is difficult to quantify the impact that a single individual can have on a group that has had so many individual participants over the course of nearly 90 years, but I’ll try. I could get in to how good of a performer she was (excellent) or how much of a role model she was for the younger members (outstanding) or how organized and efficient she was as an administrator (very).

I could get into all of those things, but I won’t. The reason why Megh is a Hall of Famer is that Megh was the soul of our corps for more than a decade.

As a member and as an administrator, she was the one with all of the answers, all of the pep talks, all of the tough love, all of the safety pins, and all of the compassion.

- Day 23 of Spring Training and you feel like you just can’t go on? Go talk to Megh.
- Got a problem with somebody? Go talk to Megh.
- Broken equipment? Uniform not fitting? Go talk to Megh.
- Done with drum corps and ready to catch the next bus home? Go talk to Megh.
- Wondering how a Cadet is supposed to do something? Watch Megh.
- Wondering how a *human* is supposed to do something? Watch Megh.

Again, it is impossible to quantify Megh’s contributions to our corps in just two short pages, so I’ll tell a story that will help sum up the intangibles here.

Marching in our corps in the late 90s was much different than it is now. It was possible, and maybe even likely, that a member could go the entire season without meeting or even knowing the names of everybody else in the corps. Sections were more insular and siloed, so members largely stayed siloed socially, too.

One morning at our pre-rehearsal meeting (and this must have been in 1999 or 2000), whichever admin staffer was leading the meeting challenged the corps to name everybody in the corps, right here, right now, and if anybody could do it, they’d get \$200 off of next year’s tuition.

Ten seconds of silence passed. Maybe a cricket or too. An awkward cough.

Megh says, "I got it."

Megh then proceeded to name every person in the corps on the spot, with everyone watching.

Do you know why Megh was the only one in the corps who could do this? Because Megh *cared*. She had and still does have genuine empathy for other humans, Cadets or not. She cares deeply for everyone associated with our corps, and she was there for everybody, all of the time. And everybody knew it. She was our constant and our center and I truly believe that literally zero people on this planet are more deserving of membership in our Hall of Fame than Megh.

If the Hall of Fame didn't exist, starting a Hall of Fame for the sole purpose of making Megh the first member would be completely reasonable.

Megh is the best of us. Full stop.

I am proud to call her a friend and it is my distinct honor to submit for consideration to the Cadets Hall of Fame Ms. Megh Toth.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL SAUNDERS, ESQ.
Board of Directors 2019-
Drum Major 2002, 2003
Brass 1998-2001

Enclosed: Letters of support from Nellie Fitzpatrick and Brad Toth

All of the following individuals have personally indicated their support of Megh's nomination to me. These names are presented in alphabetical order, although I would urge the reader to pay attention to the wide variety of roles that these people held in the organization to better understand Megh's impact and the respect she has among Cadets. It is also worth noting that I only started asking for support *36 hours* prior to the nomination deadline, via a single Facebook post to a very limited audience:

JOEY ADAMS
Brass 2001-2003

BECCA (SULLENS) ANDERSON
Color Guard 2000

CAITLIN BELL

Color Guard 2003-2007
Guard Captain 2006, 2007

JASON BENTLEY
Brass 1996-1999

DANIEL BENTON
Instructional Staff 2000-2011
Brass 1997, 1998

DR. TERESA (FOX) BERGSTROM, Ph.D.
Color Guard 2002

ANTHONY BISSOON
Brass 1998

JOHN BUCKLEY
Brass 2000, 2001

ADRIAN CASWELL
Brass 2001-2005
Horn Sargent 2005

ARIANA CHAPMAN
Color Guard 2003, 2004

WENDY (STONE) CRISMAN
Color Guard 1999, 2000, 2002

WAYNE DILLON
Instructional Staff 2000-2002

JAMIE ECKERT
Hall of Fame Member
Instructional Staff 1991-2015
Percussion 1988

NELLIE FITZPATRICK, ESQ.
Brass 2000, 2001

CHRISTEN (JUEL) FLEMING
Instructional Staff 2006-2010
Brass 2000-2003
Horn Sargent 2003

KYLE FLEMING

Brass 2004, 2005

CHRIS GRIFA

Brass 2000-2002

Instructional Staff 2007-2009

Board of Directors 2022-

EMILY (GMITTER) GRIFFIN

Color Guard 2003, 2004

DR. GARRETT GRIFFIN, Ph.D.

Brass 2000, 2001, 2003

CHRIS HAWKINS

Brass 1999

PAUL RONALD HIGGINS

Percussion 1998

ANDREW HOESL

Brass 1998-2000

DEVIN HOEY

Administrative Staff 2003

Brass 2000

JONATHAN LEWIS

Brass 2000

GERARD MADRINAN

Brass 2001, 2002

STEPHEN MARSHALL, ESQ.

Brass 1997-1999

EMMA (ROBERTS) MARTINEZ

Cadets Hall of Fame

Instructional Staff 2001-2012

Color Guard 1997-2000

Guard Captain 1999, 2000

SEAN MCFADDEN, ESQ.

Drum Major 2003

Brass 1998, 2000-2002

TEKK MCKINNEY

Brass 1999, 2000

GRANT MCWILLIAMS

Brass 1998, 2000-2002

DR. STACIE MICKENS, DMA

Brass 1998, 1999

MICHAEL MOORE

Instructional Staff 2007

Percussion 2002-2005

DR. ROXANNE MOORE, Ph.D.

Percussion 2002-2005

KIM (DAVIS) MURPHY

Color Guard 1998-2000

STEVEN MUZIO

Brass 2000-2002

JOSH PHILLIPS

Drum Major 2002

Brass 2001, 2002

Jim Jones Award for Outstanding DCI Drum Major 2002

LOUIS-PHILIPPE PARENT

Percussion 1998, 1999

NEIL PENTECOST

Brass 1997, 1999

SCOTT QUINTANA

Percussion 2003

ALI QUIRK

Brass 2006-2009

KATHERINE (BURDICK) RAMP

Brass 2003-2005

CHRIS RAPACKI

Percussion 2002-2004

MARK RASLEY

Support 2001-2007

RICHARD RAUCH

Brass 1999-2002

Horn Sargent 2002

JESSICA REYNOLDS

Brass 2002-2003

MATT ROSINE

Brass 1997, 1999

CHRISTOPHER E. RUTT

Brass 1996-1998

BRIAN STOCKARD

Percussion 2000

VAMSI TADEPALLI

Brass 2001, 2002

MICHAEL D. TERRY

Support 1998-2007

MICHAEL P. TERRY

Instructional Staff 2015-2017

Brass 2000-2007

CHRISTINE (HIGGINS) TETZLAFF

Administrative Staff

Instructional Staff

Color Guard

CHRIS THOMAS

Brass 2003-2004

BRAD TOTH

Instructional Staff 2003, 2004, 2006

Drum Major 2001

Brass 1997, 1999, 2000

CHRIS VALE

Instructional Staff 2005-2013

Percussion 1999-2003

Percussion Section Leader 2001-2003

KAREN (PRINCE) WELBORN

Color Guard 1999-2001

KARI WHITE

Instructional Staff 1998-2000

KATIE WOOD

Color Guard 2000-2002; 2004