

Dear Committee,

My name is Sharbel Skaff, and I am writing this letter in support of Drew Shanefield's nomination to The Cadets Hall of Fame. For context, I first met Drew auditioning for the corps 2017 season. That summer I marched with The Cadets 2, and subsequently joined The Cadets in 2018 aging out with the group in 2021. In addition, I currently function as a brass intern with the corps, supporting Matt Stratton and the team. In this letter I want to specifically highlight my experiences with Drew throughout the 2018 season.

When the events unfolded in April of 2018, Drew was the person me and the other brass members looked to in moving us forward. Before we knew it, we had a new show and were full steam ahead to getting a product on the field. Drew undoubtedly was a driving force in that season and showed his determination and love for the corps. There are few Cadets I have met in my time that will sacrifice so much for the success of the corps and its members. Drew fully embodies servant leadership and is a true role model in that regard.

The biggest thing that motivated me to write this letter in support of Drew is his passion. During the 2018 and 2019 seasons there were a lot of teachers at the corps but there weren't many educators. Much of the staff weren't Cadets and when they spoke to us, they were just saying words, there was no merit behind their instruction. Drew had the ability to get in front of the corps and inspire learning. I knew that if Drew was speaking, he believed in every word he was saying. If we did not have this Cadet as involved with the corps as he was, I do not believe the 2018 Cadets would have done as well as we did.

The 2018 summer was challenging in many ways. A corps that I had spent years working to join, a place that I felt was my dream, turned into my biggest nightmare. Drew taught me what it meant to be a Cadet, and without that I would not be where I am today.

Sincerely,

Sharbel Skaff