

Dear Strong Gray Line Community,

As we reflect on the past year (2023), it is with great pride and gratitude that we share the accomplishments and milestones of our organization! Guided by our mission to honor the fallen from our Class of 2004, support their families and classmates in need, and build a legacy of service, we remained steadfast in our commitment to compassion, service, and community.

In our approach to our 20th reunion year, we embraced innovation and adaptability to complete this very important mission. Last year, we successfully launched the monthly Grip Hands MeetUp initiative, providing a platform for our classmates to connect regularly, fostering camaraderie and support for one another. In addition to having an amazing Speaker line-up, we created a space where classmates could connect with one another in smaller numbers, to promote authenticity, vulnerability, and connection. We are proud to announce that we've had over 134 attendees in our events and will continue to have these monthly sessions for 2024!

We remained steadfast in meeting the needs of our community members. Notably, we responded to the tragic events of Nick Simpson and Brad Rice's recent passing. We provided unwavering support and were able to raise a significant sum of money to go towards their children's education. Thank you for your contribution and continued support of our classmates. Furthermore, last year, we were able to facilitate Ben Recla's family to visit West Point, and have continued to support our Gold Star families with Memorial Day flowers to honor the memories of our fallen classmates.

Internally, we prioritized building our organizational capacity to effectively execute our mission. Through strategic hires, such as working with our classmate, Jonathan Eben, and investments in infrastructure, we enhanced our ability to plan and deliver impactful events and initiatives. We were able to partner with another USMA grad's business to provide Strong Gray Line SWAG to be purchased during the last holiday season – most of these items should already be delivered! Additionally, we expanded our social media presence with the addition of Jerod Carrier, enhancing our outreach and engagement efforts.

For future programming, we initiated conversations with organizations like Headstrong and Fallen Patriots, exploring opportunities for collaboration to further our shared goals. These partnerships will enable us to extend our reach and amplify our impact in supporting our class.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our collaboration with the Reunion Committee, as Bridgette Bell, the reunion chair, is also on our Board of Directors. We plan to provide monthly updates of the reunion via newsletters and also our monthly Grip Hands MeetUps!

In an effort to be a more inclusive organization, we are inviting nominations from our class to join our Board for a 1-year commitment. Other requirements for Board members will be your participation in meetings, events, and a small give/get donation obligation to raise funds for our organization. Your involvement is crucial to the continued success of our organization, and we welcome your participation in shaping the future of the Strong Gray Line! [Apply here if you are interested!](#)

As we forge ahead, let us continue to honor the fallen, uplift those in need, and build a legacy of service for our class community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Haley & Freddie

Handwritten signatures of Haley Uthlaut and Freddie. The signature for Haley Uthlaut is written in a cursive style, and the signature for Freddie is a stylized, more abstract cursive signature.