



Dear Community Member,

I am writing on behalf of the Lassiter Pope Kell Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC). Students in grades 9-12 attending Lassiter High School, Pope High School and Kell High School for the 2023-24 school year comprise the unit, which has received Distinguished Unit distinction for the last several years.

While some cadet activities are made possible in part by the US Navy, we rely on the generous support of our community supporters to fund team competitions, leadership development opportunities, and scholarships for our 100+ cadets in this amazing leadership development program. Your support is an invaluable resource in helping these hard-working cadets gain access to the experiences that will shape them into the successful leaders of tomorrow!

In NJROTC, we hold a steadfast belief that inspiring the youth to become exemplary citizens is pivotal in shaping tomorrow's workforce. This conviction lies at the heart of our Junior ROTC program. Our Commander and First Sergeant are exceptional former military officers who consistently go the extra mile to educate and inspire our cadets to become the finest versions of themselves. In fact, our very own First Sergeant is known as a hometown hero, as shown in the attached article. Our cadets, the torchbearers of this ethos, embody the values of responsible citizenship, leadership, and personal accountability. We humbly seek your support, whether as an individual or on behalf of your company, to empower these exceptional young individuals.

We want to assure you that every dollar of your contribution will be dedicated exclusively to cadet activities and essential equipment. Our program and leaders have a remarkable legacy of nurturing young leaders, and we proudly state that there are no administrative overheads to diminish the impact of your donation. Your generosity can take various forms, from contributing to our general fund to supporting individual cadets or directing your support to a specific area within the JROTC

program, as per your preference. Decisions regarding the allocation of funds from the general pool will adhere to the priorities set by our JROTC Instructors.

Junior ROTC serves as a profound educational vehicle, instilling high school students with the values of citizenship, leadership, community service, personal responsibility, and self-esteem. This transformative experience equips cadets with essential life skills, fostering teamwork and self-discipline. Moreover, it prepares them for future leadership roles while imbuing them with a deep understanding of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as American citizens. Our leadership development program serves as a catalyst for high school graduation and encourages pursuit of post-secondary education, whether in trade schools, community colleges, or universities. In addition, JROTC offers valuable instruction and opportunities that will continue to benefit students, communities, and our nation for generations to come.

Our cadets exemplify the spirit of giving back through an array of community service endeavors. These include collecting provisions for the food bank at Lassiter, cleaning up the community by collecting trash along main roads, providing needed security during parades and high school football games, and much more. In essence, our program equips cadets for success beyond high school, nurturing responsible citizens who are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

In closing, we invite you to be a part of this transformative journey. Your support will not only strengthen our Junior ROTC program but also invest in the bright future of our young cadets, who are poised to become the leaders of tomorrow. Together, we can empower these promising individuals to reach their full potential and make a lasting impact on their communities and our nation. Your generous contribution is a testament to your commitment to shaping a better future. Thank you for considering our request.

Some specific ways that you may support this organization are listed on the following pages.

Please consider a donation to support your Lassiter Pope Kell NJROTC cadets. We make donating quick and easy, and we appreciate your contribution to our success in the 2023-2024 academic year! LPK NJROTC CPO is a Section 501(c) (3) charitable organization, EIN 31-1842112. Donations may be made on our website at <https://lassiternjrotc.com/> and you can get there with this QR code or by mailing us a check to the address below.

NJROTC CPO SPONSOR



Sincerely,

Katie Smith
President, LPK NJROTC Cadet Parent Organization
Lassiter Pope Kell NJROTC CPO, P.O. Box 669752, Marietta GA 30066

Jim Minta, Lorenzo Cox stand with their NJROTC cadets when it matters most



Capt. James "Jim" Minta, left, and 1st Sgt. Lorenzo Cox with some of their NJROTC cadets.

Dressed in perfectly pressed uniforms, the cadets glide across the polished floor of the gymnasium, their eyes focused in front of them and their feet marching in rhythmic unison as they pivot into complicated formations. These Cobb County students from Lassiter, Pope and Kell high schools represent the award-winning Lassiter-Pope-Kell Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, also known as NJROTC, a Navy-sanctioned high school program that emphasizes citizenship, service to the country, personal responsibility and leadership skills among those enrolled in its classes. The program also promotes volunteerism through community-service projects.

There are more than 600 NJROTC units in the U.S., each with one or more instructors who guide the students through intensive scholastic curricula. For six years, Capt. James "Jim" Minta served alongside 1st Sgt. Lorenzo Cox as a naval science instructor for the Lassiter-Pope-Kell unit. In 2017, the two instructors realized there were greater lessons to teach the cadets beyond military history, strategies, ship schematics, weather and weaponry.

"Two brothers in our unit were killed in a car accident. Their sister was also a cadet in our program," retired military officer Minta says. "It was a devastating loss for all of us. Our unit had an active role in the memorial service."


In the days and weeks that followed, Minta and Cox facilitated lots of conversations and hugs. Many of the students had never experienced death on a personal level, and the two men helped them as they mourned and learned how to show up for others in times of distress.

"We took care of each other, and we supported the family during that difficult time," remembers Cox, a retired Marine with 23 years of service. "We laughed, we cried and we prayed together, and we soon found our way forward."

Eighteen months later, a cadet took his own life, and members of the unit found themselves companions in grief once again.

"We've lost too many cadets here," Cox says. "Each time, we dealt with our grief together—as a unit."

Minta and Cox say that NJROTC not only prepares cadets academically but also builds unbreakable bonds, helps students develop high levels of caring and compassion and teaches them how to navigate the ups and downs of life. Time after time, the 130 or so students at Lassiter-Pope-Kell win awards (two Unit Achievement Awards and three Distinguished Unit Awards in the last five years) and rise above all obstacles to embody the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment.

Minta, who retired from teaching in June, says that he and Cox represent the hundreds of NJROTC instructors in the U.S. who work with young people to help them "become better citizens." But their efforts go far beyond that. Through their mentoring, leadership and love, Cox, Minta and teachers like them are helping to build better people. 

Amber Lanier Nagle is a freelance writer living in Adairsville.

Lassiter, Pope and Kell High Schools

NJROTC Unit Supporter Opportunities

for 2023-2024

lassiternjrotc.com

| Command Supporter | Special Teams Supporter | Blue and Gold Supporter |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Included: Placement of your banner at the Unity NJROTC events, such as the Annual Military Inspection, holiday parties, and all other events where the entire unit and their families are invited</p> <p>\$1,500.00</p> | <p>Included: Placement of your banner on a tent at the competitive events the cadets attend for your choice of one of the following teams: Drone, Drill, Orienteering, Rifle and Academic</p> <p>\$1,000.00</p> | <p>Included: Your company logo on NJROTC team website, featured in organizational communications and social media</p> <p>\$500.00</p> |

All supporters unless requested to be anonymous, such as the Anchor supporter, will be featured on the schools' NJROTC website, featured in organizational communications and thanked through social media posts. Please contact directly for scholarship offers for Senior NJROTC cadets.

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for 2023-2024

lassiternjrotc.com

| Endurance Supporter | Shipmate Supporter | Anchor Supporter |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Included: Your company provides 100 refillable water bottles or warm up towels with NJROTC logo on one side and your company logo on the other side</p> | <p>Included: Your anonymous support of a cadet provides a financially insecure cadet the opportunity to fully participate in the unit/team events.</p> | <p>Included: Your company logo will be mentioned in organizational communications and social media</p> |
| <p>\$350.00</p> | <p>\$300.00</p> | <p>Gift Cards, Food for Events or Donations in Any Amount</p> |

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