

“Academy Honors Veterans”

CLASS NOTES + ALUMNI UPDATES

Academy Honors Veterans

Veterans, alumni, students and friends gathered on **November 11** on Main Campus to pay tribute to veterans who died in the service of our country and those who are serving today. The program honors Woodward’s past as Georgia Military Academy.

Maj. Daniel Gade, the keynote speaker, was the commanding officer of **Lt. Tyler Hall Brown ’96**, who lost his life in Iraq. Maj. Gade

remembered Tyler as a man who made hard choices in his life, instead of easy choices, electing to lead his platoon in Iraq instead of taking an opportunity for safe, ceremonial guard duty in Washington, D.C. “Tyler chose to do the hard, right thing instead of the easy, wrong thing,” Maj. Gade said.

He urged students to choose the right thing every day of their lives. “You must lead yourself first. You



Maj. Gade spoke to Ronda Zents’ ninth grade English class.

should do the right thing even when it’s hard, especially when it’s hard,” he said. “When you experience tragedy, the only thing you have to

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get you through that tragedy is the character you have developed up to that point.”

Tyler’s family and friends created the **Tyler H. Brown ’96 Leadership Speaker Series Endowment Fund** to support the Veterans Day program so that students could hear speakers like Maj. Gade, who has served in numerous command and staff positions in the U.S. Army. Maj. Gade also served as an Associate Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. He is a decorated

officer with awards including the Presidential Service Badge, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, among others. He is an instructor at the United States Military Academy at West Point, his alma mater, and holds a Ph.D. and an M.P.A. from the University of Georgia. He remains on active duty in the U.S. Army despite losing a leg in combat in 2005. His is married to Woodward alumna **Wendy Williams Gade ’93**.



(Left to right): Pam Brown, **Brent Brown ’90**, Robert F. Hawks, Vice President for Advancement, Maj. Daniel Gade, President Stuart Gulley, **Natalie Brown Houk ’90**, Walker Houk and Carey Brown, father of **Lt. Tyler Brown ’96**.