

## NCLS 2025 HOTWASH REPORT

NCLS 2025 was the twentieth anniversary of our support for the Academy's National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS). Since 2005 our Flagship Sponsor funds have impacted the leadership development of over 20,000 cadets, one third of all graduates. To date over one million '73 dollars have enabled NCLS to grow into the program it is today. And our support will continue; as of 1 January 2025 our endowment had over \$2.9M in it, which allows the program to use up to \$130,000 for the next NCLS. The Class of 1973 is by far the largest single funding support for the Academy's largest character and leadership training program.

about 20 of our classmates as well as many spouses attended, and many volunteered, for NCLS 2025. The Superintendent had a major role in structuring the program to his theme of "Warfighters to Win". Thus the speakers were by and large either active duty or recently retired. The hotwash feedback from our classmates/spouses that this NCLS definitely provided character and leadership experiences to cadets, and overall NCLS was very important to cadet development. Our classmates thought there should be more speaker choices, but the votes split on whether there should be civilian speakers...but quite a few added comments to the effect of missing ordinary folks with extraordinary stories. The slam-dunk best speaker by class vote was LtCol Nadeem, an Iraqi American who was separated from her mother and lived in Iraq as a child before being repatriated to the US...an ordinary USAF officer with an extraordinary story.

Rich and Eve Fazio hosted the after-NCLS dinner at Casa Fiesta for over thirty of us and invited the Vice Superintendent and his wife, MGen Tom and Laurie Sherman, who were great. Also joining were Sully and Lorrie Sullenberger who attended this NCLS to present the AOG's Sullenberger Award for Courage to F-15E crewmembers who defended Israel from drone attacks last year. All our '73 lunches and dinners are great, this was one of the best.



L-R: Kirk Samelson, Ted Kammire, MGen Sherman, Chris Taravella, Al Maurer, Bob Munson, AJ Ranft, Mike Arnett, John Wigington, Mike Edwards, Jim Parker, Steve Lorenz, Bill Diffley, Vic Thuotte, AJ Briding, Charlie Felton, Trapper Carpenter, host Rich Fazio, Sully Sullenberger



L-R: Laury Edwards, seated Pris Arnett, Pam Diffley, Sandy Maurer, hidden hostess Teresa Fazio, Pam Munson, Rose ..., Lorrie Sullenberger, Barb Rorke, Connie Thuotte, behind Andree Ranft, Laurie Sherman, Flo Parker, Iris Carpenter, Leslie Lorenz