

Dare to Lead- Commit to Lead and Serve Day

Class Day Blog

November 11, 2020

Design Team: Kelly Burton, Kara Jones, Chris Channels, Nick Shires, Adelena Bagdasarova, Chris Sturick, Grace Ganley, Ann Thomas, Lizette Lewis, Ross Ireland, Adam Brown, Matt Capogreco, Samantha Muldoon, Shelly Skellington

2020 has been the year of the pivot. We have all been required to pivot our lifestyles in more ways than one. We have pivoted to working from home (in the comfort of our pjs), having our children educated via zoom, and finding creative ways to stay connected while farther apart than ever. In 2020 fashion, our design team pivoted with 48 hours' notice to having our class day completely virtual. What a way to learn the leadership skills of flexibility, creativity, and fearlessness!



Our class was planned to take place at the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field with a touch of a military theme because class day was on Veterans Day. We decided to honor Veterans Day by beginning our day with the Honor Guard ceremony. It was a powerful ceremony to witness and set the tone for an inspiring day ahead. Thank you to those who have served!



Chris Channels, Kelly Burton, and Nick Shires opened the day by thanking the Honor Guard participants and giving a background on the Poppy Pins the design team was wearing. The Flanders Fields poem was recited and a quick video was shared. The Flanders Fields poem was written during World War One; its references to the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the remembrance poppy becoming one of the world's most recognized memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict.

Chris Sturick then introduced Colonel McCrink and Chief Master Sergeant Williams.

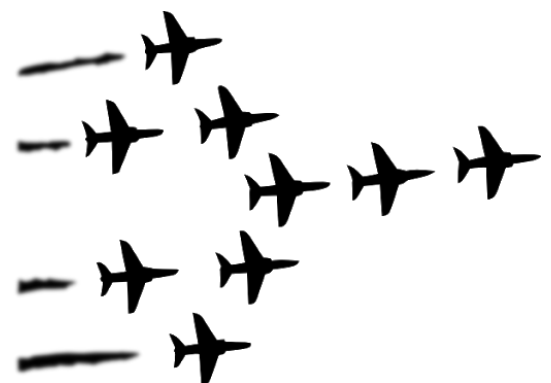
Colonel McCrink was the first to present and noted the most important and most challenging part of leadership is to inspire everyone around you to find their “why”- to find their purpose for everything they do. Colonel noted his “why” is his family. In his remarks there were a few key phrases that he used that really resonated with the group.

Leadership is a process- you have to practice to be good.

Have leaders at all levels, not just the top -push autonomy and decision making to all levels

Praise in public and criticize in private

Know your destination. Anywhere you go, just know where you want to end up.



Sergeant Williams presented next and kicked off her presentation with the adage, “take care of your people and your people will take care of you.” Sergeant Williams’ work within Human Resources at the base inspired the focus of her points to be on the importance of the people on your team and those that you lead. She brought such energy and optimism to her presentation and her work! She pressed the importance of everyone being a mentor and that we should be working to train our replacement. A few of the points Sergeant Williams drove home were the following:



Please don't care what you know until you know that they care

Diversity is a military necessity- we are stronger because of it.

Leadership is all about listening

After a quick break, Kara Jones introduced Jeff Knaus, the CEO of Digital Hyve and shared her leadership quote “I contributed more than I criticized.”

Jeff Knaus began his presentation by asking the class if we knew what our North Star was and asking where is your starting line in life? Create your roadmap once you know where and what your north star is and where do I want to land? Jeff gave the class an overview of his background and how authenticity and taking risks lead he and his co-founder to co-found Digital Hyve. Jeff is very involved in the community (sits on seven boards) and believes that positive impact is of crucial importance. We should strive to improve the lives of others and our community as much as possible. Virtuous leading is so important to Jeff he named his company with it in mind- “hyve” means virtue in Finnish! Jeff noted that organizations should truly put their people first (like Sergeant Williams mentioned!) as they are the organizations’ biggest asset. Finally, Jeff discussed what leadership looks like in 2020. He stated that transparent communication and knowledge help offset unease tremendously- tell your team how good and how bad things are. We should strive to control the controllable, be vulnerable, and focus on the positive.

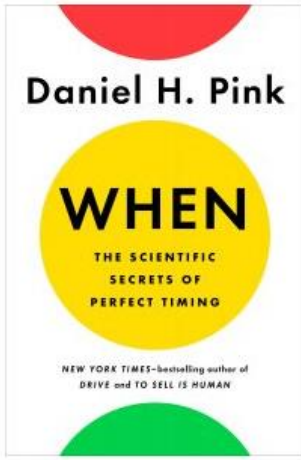


Crew, Clients, Passion, Integrity, Better Every Day

Samantha Muldoon introduced our next speaker and fearless leader, Pam Brunet!

Pam Brunet started her presentation by reminding us that LGS is a gift. And reflecting on what a year we have had together learning and growing as a class. Pam gives this presentation to the class every year as a recap of the year and charge to the class to take what we have learned and put it to action going forward. There are three major areas of development that LGS works to achieve: personal development resources, community development, and giving back. Pam noted that once you know what your leadership skills are, find an area you are passionate about and have fun contributing to it! Pam covered how we can take action in our community through a number of different types of service: one hit wonder events, advisory committees, government commissions, and running for office! LGS has programs to support these efforts through the Nourishing Tomorrow’s Leaders and the CNY Political Leadership Institute. Pam also explained what it takes to be on a Board of Directors and the questions you should ask before joining. Pam dared us to lead as we leave LGS and reminded us of all the support we have as we work to make CNY a strong and healthy community to live and work!





Lizette Lewis and Ann Thomas introduced our final speakers for the day, Commander Burke and Chief Tucker!

This part of our day was the biggest pivot the design team had to make in the planning. We had originally planned to do a tour of the attack wing, in person, but changed our plan to have our two tour guides present instead. **Colonel Burke** started the presentation by giving a detailed overview of the capabilities of the attack wing. He showed photos of the aircraft and described the capabilities of the wing. He was able to answer questions on leadership styles and functions during some of their recent missions. Next, **Chief Tucker** presented on the maintenance group

and field training detachment. He noted what needs to take place to keep the wing's aircraft functioning so they are able to successfully and effectively act with little notice. Both presenters fielded some very specific questions about their work, leadership advice, and aircraft specifics.

Following our final presenters of the day, Matt Capogreco made closing remarks and explained the notecard exercise. Each class member will be receiving the name of a fellow classmate and a note card to let them know what they learned

from this person over the course of our 2020 experience. These cards will be mailed to each class member with an uplifting message in the near future. Matt left us with his leadership quote of choice, "I may not have ended up where I intended to go but I ended up where I needed to be."

To complete our day, Adelena Bagdasarova and Adam Brown, made final comments on the day and reflecting on how far we have come. Everyone had a drink in hand and all did one final "cheers" to end the day. Two leadership quotes they left us with were, "be the change that you want to see in the world" and "if you think you're the smartest person in the room, then you're in the wrong room."

Thank you to the design team and class for effectively pivoting to make our class day a success!

We asked the team and presenters to share with the class their favorite leadership book, podcast, or quote. The books are scattered around the page and serve as a great Leadership Library for future reference!

