

*Storybook*  
chapters

PRESENTED BY  
**UNITED THROUGH READING**



Event Program

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# Welcome

## DEAR UNITED THROUGH READING FRIENDS,

We so wish that we could be celebrating in person today in San Diego, but the health and safety of all of you, our military families, our board, and staff is important to us. Instead, we gather this week virtually, in much the same way as the families we strive to connect, to celebrate military families reading together every day, no matter the distance.

Tonight we look at how United Through Reading helps military families stay connected, grow their love of reading, have reliable communication, and ease their minds and hearts during times apart. This year, we have all faced many challenges with COVID-19 and our military families are no exception. They have seen longer deployments with the addition of quarantines, unexpected and long National Guard activations to help their community fight the pandemic, and travel restrictions not allowing them to visit family across the country.

Through it all, United Through Reading has been there for our service members, Veterans, and their families with our mobile reading App. At a time when many physical locations are closed, our App is always available. Our free books continued to ship around the world for families to read together.

This year we honor our longtime friends VADM DeWolfe "Chip" Miller, USN and Mrs. Ellen Miller and one of our favorite authors, Brad Meltzer, for their commitment to our military families and dedication to reading together.

Thank you for joining us for this virtual event, stay safe, and we look forward to celebrating in person with you in 2021.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Ann Zoll".

**Sally Ann Zoll, Ed.D.**  
Chief Executive Officer



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Roehrkaase".

**Brian J. Roehrkaase**  
Chair, VP, Communications, Facebook

# Evening Program

**NOVEMBER 14**

## **WELCOME REMARKS**

Catherine Garcia  
*NBC 7 San Diego*  
Master of Ceremonies

## **UNITED THROUGH READING REMARKS**

Dr. Sally Ann Zoll  
CEO  
*United Through Reading*

## **PRESENTATION OF STORYTIME CHAMPIONS AWARD TO**

VADM DeWolfe Miller, USN and Mrs. Ellen Miller

## **TITLE SPONSOR REMARKS**

Justin Schmitt  
Assistant Vice President, Corporate Responsibility  
*USAA*

## **LIVE AUCTION**

Mark Drilling  
*Stokes Auction Group*

## **BENEFICIARY TESTIMONIAL**

ABH3 Ciaira Meyers, USN

## **RAISE THE PADDLE**

Mark Drilling  
*Stokes Auction Group*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

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# Brad Meltzer



## **AUDREY GEISEL FRIEND OF MILITARY CHILDREN AWARD HONOREE**

Brad Meltzer is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Inner Circle*, *The Book of Fate*, and ten other bestselling thrillers. He also writes non-fiction books like the *Ordinary People Change the World* kids book series. *The Hollywood Reporter* recently put him on their list of Hollywood's 25 Most Powerful Authors.

*Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum*, the new TV series based on his children's books with Chris Eliopoulos, can be seen every day on PBS KIDS. His illustrated children's books *I Am Amelia Earhart* and *I Am Abraham Lincoln*, which he does with artist Chris Eliopoulos, were written for his own children, to give them better heroes to look up to.

Brad supports many worthy causes including putting mentors in underserved public schools with City Year, fighting breast cancer with Sharsheret, and serving on the Board of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation.

Raised in Brooklyn and Miami, Brad is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Columbia Law School. Brad currently lives in Florida with his wife and three children.

# VADM DeWolfe Miller & Mrs. Ellen Miller



## **STORYTIME CHAMPIONS AWARD HONOREES**

Vice Admiral Chip and Ellen Miller were married in 1981 following Chip's graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. Over the last 39 years, Vice Admiral Miller's aviation career included 20 household moves, numerous duty stations and 9 overseas deployments. He retired from his position as Commander, Naval Air Forces, on October 2, 2020.

Chip and Ellen were introduced to United Through Reading during Chip's Executive Officer tour on USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70). They continued to support UTR during his Command Tour on USS NASHVILLE (LPD 13) and again as Commanding Officer of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77). At that time, the Bush was the Navy's newest carrier and the Millers relished the opportunity to embed UTR into the DNA of the ship and the Sailors who sailed on her. To further the love of reading, they hosted authors and book signings onboard the ship.

The Millers have three grown children and look forward to reading, gardening and spending time with family and friends as they relocate to the East Coast.





## The Fawley Family, Army

### CHAPTER 1: FAMILY CONNECTIONS

The Fawley family used United Through Reading to stay connected during an uncertain time, when weeks of separation turned to a month and included a mandatory quarantine for Major Darrell Fawley III. Then they were apart again while Lindsey and their son Darrell IV moved and settled into their new duty station while Major Fawley waited for his exception to policy to be approved, they were reunited right before the arrival of their daughter LillyAnne in June.



## The Taylor Family, Navy

### CHAPTER 2: COMMUNICATION

After learning about United Through Reading, Cherrell Taylor reached out to her husband HM2 George Taylor III to find it on the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) for their sons. Taylor sent a story home to their two boys, George IV, 8, and Ryan, 5, and they watched whenever they missed their dad during a deployment that stretched on for 10 months, missing major holidays and birthdays.



## The Fontana Family, Air Force

### CHAPTER 3: FAMILY ROUTINE

As an Air Force loadmaster, Technical Sergeant Vince Fontana, has at times been home for only 2 weeks at a time before going on another mission. He uses the United Through Reading App to be home every night for storytime with his son Henry, 6, helping his wife Jennifer maintain their daily routine.



## The Meyers Family, Navy

### THE CLOSING CHAPTER

Before ABH3 Ciara Meyers left for a round the world deployment on the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), she said goodbye to her then 10-month old son, as he remained with family in Florida. She sent home United Through Reading videos and books every month so that her son knew her when she came home.

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## COVID-19 RESPONSE PARTNER



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Stephen & Susan Swinton

# Catherine Garcia



## **MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**

Catherine Garcia is the main evening anchor at NBC 7 San Diego. You'll see her on the News at 4, 6, and 11 pm Monday through Friday. Catherine came to NBC 7 as the weekend anchor in 2003.

Catherine is a Southern California native but as the daughter of an officer in the Air Force, she attended eight schools before graduating from high school in Redondo Beach. She earned her bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Spanish from the University of Southern California. She also studied abroad through the Semester at Sea program, traveling to South America, Africa, and Asia.

Catherine got her start in journalism working behind the scenes at CNN Headquarters in Atlanta and with the CNN Los Angeles Bureau. She made her on-camera debut as a reporter and anchor at NBC in El Paso, Texas. Jobs in Austin and Dallas followed, before she returned home to California.

Catherine is married to her college sweetheart. They have one son, one chocolate lab, and two cats. She enjoys tennis, cooking, yoga, traveling, and cheering for the USC Trojans.



## COVID-19 RESPONSE PARTNER

# USAA & The USAA Foundation, Inc.

For 20 years, United Through Reading, USAA and The USAA Foundation, Inc. have worked together to provide vital family connections during deployment and other times of military related separations through the power of shared storytime.

USAA Bank has helped UTR reach service members and their families in the greater Hampton Roads, Virginia area; North Carolina; and Washington State. Now, as United Through Reading's COVID-19 Response Partner, USAA is helping military and veteran families around the world stay connected no matter the difference with our App and other safe and secure program delivery methods in the pandemic environment.



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