



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
ACADEMY

JROTC Hall of Fame Induction

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026 AT HOMECOMING HALFTIME



2026 JROTC HOF INDUCTEE

Captain Daniel A. Whalen '86

A member of the CBA Class of 1986, **Captain Dan Whalen** was deeply involved in the CBA community as a student. He served as a Cadet Lieutenant Colonel in JROTC and was a member of Student Council, Peer Ministry, Cross Country, Indoor Track and Outdoor Track. He was a four-year member of the track programs and served as co-captain of the Cross Country team.

After CBA, he attended Marquette University, earning a Bachelor's degree in History in 1990 and receiving his commission as an Army officer through Army ROTC. He went on to serve six years in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Captain. His military career included serving as a Tank Platoon Leader with the 1st Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, during Operation Desert Storm. He participated in the historic "Hail Mary" maneuver and the 100-hour ground offensive, which saw his division advance 260 kilometers through hostile territory and ultimately seize Safwan Airfield.

His service earned him numerous honors, including the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Awards, the Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait and the Southwest Asia Service Medal. He was also a finalist for the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. Following his military service, Dan continued his career in quality management and consulting. He is currently Principal Consultant at Whalen Quality Consulting and holds certifications as an American Society of Quality Lead Auditor and Certified Six Sigma Quality Leader.

He and his wife, Julie, are the proud parents of three children: Daniel, Erin and Caralyn.



2026 JROTC HOF INDUCTEE

LTC Christopher Ophardt '97

LTC (Ret.) Christopher Ophardt '97 has built a distinguished career defined by leadership, service, and communication excellence. At CBA, Ophardt was a four-year soccer player, serving as varsity captain his senior year and earning Second Team All-Section 2 honors. He was also deeply involved in JROTC, rising to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and serving as JROTC Band Commander his senior year. He was a member of the Honor Society and yearbook staff.

Ophardt earned a B.A. in History from Drake University in 2001, with minors in Political Science, Military Science, and Education, before earning an MBA with Academic Honors from Webster University in 2023. He served 20 years in the United States Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. A Field Artillery Officer early in his career, he deployed twice to Iraq, spending 21 of 24 months in Baghdad. He later transitioned to strategic communications and public affairs, serving in leadership roles at the United States Military Academy at West Point, the Pentagon, the Office of the Secretary of the Army, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord. His military service earned numerous honors, including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, and the Combat Action Badge.

Following his military career, Ophardt continued serving his community through business, education, and volunteer leadership. He has served as president of the Sigma Chi Alumni Association, chairman of Sea Island Heritage Academy, and on the board of the Coastal Organization of Human Resources. He has also coached and refereed soccer and remains active in his faith community. Ophardt's journey from CBA JROTC leader to Army Lieutenant Colonel and strategic communications leader reflects a lifelong commitment to leadership, service, faith, and community.