



VADM Michael & Janet Malone Scholar

Liam Baca

Annapolis, MD

Sponsor: CAPT James Baca

College: Johns Hopkins University

2022-2023: Freshman

Major: Pure Math

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Institute for Cultural Communicators: Eastern U.S. Area Student Leader Team: 12th
- USNA Judo Team: Brown Belt
- Anne Arundel Community College Honors Program
- Officers' Christian Fellowship
- Tutor at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) and United States Naval Academy (USNA)
- Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory ASPIRE Internship



For the first five years of my life, my dad was stationed at NAS Whidbey Island. One evening, my dad came home just as we were sitting down to dinner. With his hair still matted from his helmet, he leaned back in his chair and unzipped his flight suit revealing his squadron's t-shirt. My eyes widened as I saw a large, stylized "S" winding its way through a diamond-shaped emblem in the middle of his chest. I stole a glance at my little brother, and his astounded gaze confirmed what I had already deduced with my four-year-old logic: My dad was Superman! Even though my dad may not have had superpowers, he was still my hero. Like Superman, my dad in his EA-6B exuded qualities of power and authority while also conveying a sense of protection, justice, and morality. Through five moves, my dad's deployments and even now, after his retirement, the Navy has been a constant presence in my life. I am very proud to have received this scholarship and continue to serve others as I hope to become a teacher. This scholarship will provide me the financial flexibility to face the challenges that will shape me into a mature and competent mathematician, professor and—most of all—leader.