



## APSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MILITARY SERVICE AWARD

### JOEL C. PRUITT

Pivot Program Director, 5th Special Forces Group

Master Sergeant Joel C. Pruitt (Retired) served 24 years of active duty in the United States Army, with extensive service in the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell. His distinguished military career included five combat tours in Iraq and deployments to Somalia, Panama, Qatar, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Djibouti, and Kenya. His service has been recognized with five Bronze Star Medals, the Combat Infantry Badge with Star (2nd award), and numerous other decorations.

In 2017, MSG Pruitt earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Austin Peay State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. His commitment to APSU has continued well beyond graduation. As President of Chapter 38 of the Special Forces Association, he has been instrumental in establishing four scholarship endowments at APSU specifically for Special Forces personnel and their families. In 2023, he collaborated with CW4(R) Joe Shakeenab to create the CSM(R) Francis McFadden Military Scholarship, further strengthening the bond between the military and academic communities in Clarksville.

MSG Pruitt's impact on the Clarksville community extends through his role as Pivot Program Director at 5th Special Forces Group, where since 2021 he has directly assisted over 500 service members with their transition to civilian life. His dedication to veteran causes earned him the Charlie Daniels Patriot Award in 2022 and the titles of Kentucky Colonel and Tennessee Colonel Aide-de-camp in 2023. He serves on the Advisory Board for the Charlie Daniels Journey Home Project, where he has fostered crucial relationships between the 5th Special Forces Group and the Clarksville community.

Through his unwavering commitment to APSU, military personnel, and veterans in the Clarksville area, MSG Joel Pruitt has created lasting pathways connecting military service members to educational opportunities and community support, embodying the spirit of the Board of Trustees Military Service Award.