



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE STUDENT STATESMANSHIP INSTITUTE'S

*Annual Banquet
& Student Awards Ceremony*

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JOE KENNEDY

AUTHOR OF *AVERAGE JOE: ONE MAN'S FAITH
AND THE FIGHT TO CHANGE A NATION*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

Crystal Gardens Event Center
5768 E Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843

Check-in begins at 5:30 PM
VIP Photo Reception at 5:30 PM
Dinner & Program at 6:30 PM

WWW.SSIONLINE.ORG/BANQUET

JOE KENNEDY

Coach Joe Kennedy is an eighteen-year Marine veteran turned football coach. Even before his first game as an assistant coach for the varsity football team, Coach Kennedy made a commitment to God that he would give thanks at the conclusion of each game for what the players had accomplished and for the opportunity to be part of their lives through football. He did this faithfully for seven years.



In 2015, Coach Joe Kennedy was suspended from his coaching position at Bremerton High School (BHS) for quietly praying on the field after football games. A lawsuit was filed against the school district, arguing that banning Coach Kennedy from praying publicly violated his Constitutional rights under the First Amendment. The case eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022. Later that year the Supreme Court ruled in support of Coach Kennedy. The victory in *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* overturned 50 years of precedent and opened the door for thousands of previously settled cases regarding public prayer to be reexamined.

A former atheist, Kennedy never imagined he'd be at the forefront of the fight for religious liberty and First Amendment rights. But his love for God and country and his never-say-die courage landed this Marine in the fight of his life.

Joe and his wife, Denise, are parents to four and reside currently in Pensacola. His memoir, *Average Joe*, was published in 2023 and a film of the same name, inspired by his life, was released nationwide in 2024.