GERRY BYRNE JAKE WOOD ZACH ISCOL

CO-CHAIRS

PROUDLY PRESENT

THE NEW YORK CITY GALA

IN CELEBRATION OF

25th ANNIVERSARY

THE 247th UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER 10, 2022

BENEFITTING

SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

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Paramount VETERANS NETWORK

celebrating our

25th

ANNIVERSARY

NYC
MARINE
CORPS
BIRTHDAY
GALA

COURAGE.
COMMITMENT.
CHARACTER.

Paramount is proud to salute the U.S. Marine Corps
on 247 years of extraordinary service to our country.

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25th ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK CITY GALA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 247th USMC BIRTHDAY
BENEFITTING SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

Pluto TV, we love you!! And thank you to the team at the Paramount Veterans Network for your incredible support in producing the 25th version of our virtual 247th United States Marine Corps Birthday Gala. We are pleased and honored that this evening benefits the works of Semper Fi & America's Fund. We gather to honor our Corps as well as all of those heroes in the uniformed services committed and devoted to protecting our nation. We can't say thank you enough to those who have served and those who are, at this very moment, in harms' way on behalf of us all. We are privileged to have General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps as our Military Guest of Honor. Tonight we also present the Allen J. Striffler USMC "Marine For Life" Award to Rob Riggle, an exemplary Marine as well as a brilliant comedian, actor and producer. Congratulations, Rob. This year's recipient of the Honorable David Dinkins Vanguard Honor is Montel Williams, Marine, Naval Officer and accomplished talk-show host, actor and motivational speaker. Congratulations, Montel!! And thank you Rich Jones and Paramount for again producing this year's virtual event. Finally, our gratitude to our national audience of Birthday celebrants and to everyone who has helped make this celebration a memorable tribute to our family of Marines.

Gerry, Zach and Jake aboard the USS Kearsarge, May 2017

GERRY BYRNE ZACH ISCOL JAKE WOOD
DINNER CO-CHAIRMEN

25th ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK CITY GALA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 247th USMC BIRTHDAY
BENEFITTING SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

GERRY BYRNE* JAKE WOOD* ZACH ISCOL*

DINNER CO-CHAIRS

DINNER COMMITTEE

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WALTER ANDERSON*
COL. H. C. "BARNEY" BARNUM*#
BOB BARSNESS*
ED BORAN*
LT. GEN. MARK BRILAKIS (RET)*
MAJ.GEN. CHARLES BOLDEN (RET.)*
CHE BOLDEN*
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*USMC #CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

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We celebrate those who always strive: to rise higher, push through every boundary, and overcome every obstacle. We're proud to show our support for the United States Marine Corps and all those whose achievements put them in rarefied air.

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HAPPY 247TH BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

SEMPER FIDELIS

Congratulations to
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Rob Riggle
Marine for Life

FOLEY CAT

25th ANNIVERSARY

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BENEFITTING SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

PROGRAM

PRODUCED BY PLUTO TV AND PARAMOUNT VETERANS NETWORK

INTRODUCTION **JIM AXELROD**
CBS NEWS ANCHOR & CORRESPONDENT

WELCOME **GERRY BYRNE**

REMARKS **JAKE WOOD, ZACH ISCOL**

THE 247th USMC BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY

MARINE CORPS BARRACKS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

WELCOME BY MILITARY GUEST OF HONOR
GENERAL DAVID H. BERGER
38th COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

THE CORPORAL ALLEN J. STRIFFLER 2022 USMC MARINE FOR LIFE AWARD

ROB RIGGLE
ACTOR/COMEDIAN/WRITER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, US MARINE CORPS (RET.)

THE 2022 HONORABLE DAVID DINKINS VANGUARD HONOR

MONTEL WILLIAMS
TELEVISION HOST / ACTOR / MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER
US MARINE CORPS (RET.), LIEUTENANT COLONEL, NAVAL RESERVE (RET.)

PRESENTED BY **CHARLES PHILLIPS**
MANAGING PARTNER, CO-FOUNDER RECOGNIZE

TRIBUTE **JUSTIN CONSTANTINE**
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, USMC

CLOSING

MILITARY GUEST OF HONOR

GENERAL DAVID H. BERGER

38th COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

General David H. Berger assumed the duties of Commandant of the Marine Corps on July 11, 2019.

A native of Woodbine, Maryland, General Berger graduated from Tulane University and was commissioned in 1981. He commanded at every level — including a Reconnaissance Company; 3d Battalion, 8th Marines in Haiti during Operation SECURE TOMORROW; Regimental Combat Team 8 in Fallujah, Iraq during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

As a General Officer, he commanded 1st Marine Division (Forward) in Afghanistan during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM; I Marine Expeditionary Force; U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific/Fleet Marine Forces Pacific; and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

General Berger's staff and joint assignments include serving as Assistant Division Commander of 2d Marine Division; policy planner in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, J-5; Chief of Staff for Kosovo Force (KFOR) Headquarters in Pristina, Kosovo; and Director of Operations in Plans, Policies, and Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration.

General Berger's formal military education includes the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Advanced Course, U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and U.S. Marine Corps School of Advanced Warfighting. He holds multiple advanced degrees including a Master of International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

THANK YOU

General David H. Berger
Commandant of the Marine Corps

&

CONGRATULATIONS

Rob Riggle
Marine for Life

Montel Williams
David Dinkins Vanguard Honor

PMC
VETERANS AFFINITY GROUP

CO-FOUNDERS: ARTHUR ZACZKIEWICZ & GERRY BYRNE

THE UNITED STATES MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps performs martial and popular music for hundreds of thousands of spectators each year. The Corps of more than 80 Marine musicians, dressed in ceremonial red and white uniforms, is known worldwide as a premier musical marching unit. Throughout the summer months the unit performs in the traditional Friday Evening Parades held at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., and in Sunset Parades at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Monument) in Arlington, Va., every Tuesday evening. The Drum and Bugle Corps travels more than 50,000 miles annually, performing in excess of 400 events across the nation and abroad.

The history of the unit can be traced to the early days of the Marine Corps. In the 18th and 19th centuries military musicians, or "field musics," provided a means of passing commands to Marines in battle formations. The sound of various drum beats and bugle calls could be easily heard over the noise of the battlefield and signalled Marines to attack the enemy or retire for the evening. Through the 1930's, Marine Corps posts still authorized a number of buglers and drummers to play the traditional calls and to ring a ship's bell to signal the time.

The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps was formed in 1934, at historic Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., to augment the United States Marine Band. The unit provided musical support to ceremonies around the nation's capitol and, during World War II, was additionally tasked with Presidential support duties. For this additional role, they were awarded the scarlet and gold breastcord by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which they now proudly display on their uniform.

When the war ended, the Drum and Bugle Corps resumed performing at various military and public ceremonies. In the early 1950s the unit gained considerable acclaim performing for an increasing number of civilian audiences. Music composed specifically for their unique selection of instruments helped establish their reputation for excellence during this period. These factors also led to the unit's formal designation as "The Commandant's Own"—a title noting their special status as musicians for the Commandant of the Marine Corps. In the tradition of their "field music" predecessors, these musicians in "The Commandant's Own" are Marines in the truest sense of the word. Every enlisted member is a graduate of Marine Corps recruit training and is trained in basic infantry skills. Prior to enlisting, each Marine must pass a demanding audition for service in the Drum and Bugle Corps. Following Recruit Training and Marine Combat Training, the Marines are assigned to "The Commandant's Own."

Happy Birthday, Marines

Congratulations to

ROB RIGGLE

our latest

MARINE FOR LIFE.

Semper fi,

Loretta & Walter Anderson

CORPORAL ALLEN J. STRIFFLER USMC

Brooklyn born Allen Striffler joined the Marines 1943 at age 17. Post training at Parris Island, New River and Camp Pendleton, he deployed to the 4th Marine Division. Four invasions as a field radio operator followed: Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. Wounded on Iwo, D plus 4, February 23, 1945, he saw the flag on Mt. Suribachi from the beach while waiting to be evacuated to a hospital ship. He returned to Iwo Jima two days later and remained in combat until the island was secured.

When the war ended, Corporal Striffler was sent to China to finish his enlistment. Honorably discharged in 1946, Mr. Striffler got his GED and then attended Long Island and Columbia Universities. His career in the oil and shipping industries began at Standard Oil (1946-1949). He retired as the President and CEO of Greenwich Marine Transportation of Greenwich, Connecticut. Mr. Striffler's personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

On June 26, 2014 Allen entered "heaven's scene" to join that special Marine guard detail. As a Marine, husband, father, and friend, no one stood taller. He, indeed, was and is our "MARINE FOR LIFE" and will be from this day forward.

The **UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS** represents a history, legacy and ethic that are unsurpassed as cornerstones to the strength of America. The rich heritage that is the Corps, the indelible mark that The Marines have stamped on our society and the positive influence they have provided in shaping America's position as a global power and firebrand of democracy, are all rooted in the strength, integrity and commitment of the individual Marine. It is the individual Marine who has made and continues to make the Corps. And it is the individual Marine, with an ethic shaped in the fields of America's defense, who has helped build the communities that are our nation, forged on solid foundations of ethics, integrity and personal commitment. It is that **"MARINE FOR LIFE"** spirit that makes a difference to our Corps and to our nation.

THE CORPORAL ALLEN J. STRIFFLER USMC
MARINE FOR LIFE AWARD
NYC MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY GALA

25th ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK CITY GALA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 247th USMC BIRTHDAY
BENEFITTING SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

THE CORPORAL ALLEN J. STRIFFLER 2021 USMC MARINE FOR LIFE AWARD

ROB RIGGLE

ACTOR/COMEDIAN/WRITER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, US MARINE CORPS (RET.)

Rob Riggle has been a staple in comedic films and television for more than 20 years. Riggle is known for his memorable characters in comedy hits like *The Hangover* and *Step Brothers*, as well as his stints on *Saturday Night Live* and as a correspondent on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Additional credits include *The Other Guys*, *21 Jump Street*, *22 Jump Street*, *Dumb and Dumber To*, and most recently Universal's *Night School with Kevin Hart*. In two strong dramatic turns, Riggle also recently appeared in Warner Bros.' war drama *12 Strong* and Open Road Films' *Midnight Sun*, the latter of which he received critical acclaim for his performance.

On the small screen, Riggle currently created and stars in Sony Crackle's *Rob Riggle's Ski Master Academy*. For his voice-over talents, he earned a 2012 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Voice-Over Performance for Disney's *Prep & Landing: Naughty vs. Nice*.

Recently announced, Riggle will headline his own television show, *Rob Riggle: Global Investigator*, on Discovery Channel. In the show, Riggle travels around the globe to solve some of the world's greatest mysteries. Also recently announced, Riggle will co-commentate ABC's new extreme mini-golf series *Holey Moley*, produced by NBA All-Star Stephen Curry.

As he broke into comedy, Riggle was still on active duty with the United States Marine Corps, which he initially joined at the age of 19. Rising through the ranks, Riggle served in various countries including Albania, Kosovo, Liberia, and Afghanistan. Lieutenant Colonel Riggle retired from the Marine Corps Reserve, having served 23 years total (9 years active duty, 14 years in the reserves) and earned more than 22 medals and ribbons including the Combat Action Ribbon.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, and raised in Overland Park, Kansas, Riggle attended Shawnee Mission South High School and graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.A. in Theater & Film. He later received a Master's in Public Administration from Webster University.

MARINES & SAILORS

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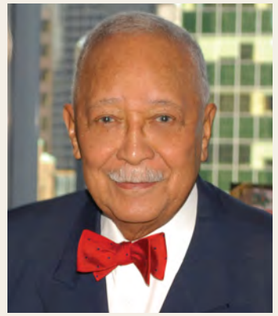
THE HONORABLE DAVID DINKINS

106TH MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS, USMC, MONTFORD POINT MARINES

JULY 10, 1927 - NOVEMBER 23, 2020



David Norman Dinkins served as NYS Assemblyman, President of the NYC Board of Elections, City Clerk and Manhattan Borough President before being elected 106th Mayor of the City of New York in 1989.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, in July, 1927, Mayor Dinkins graduated with honors from Howard University in 1950 with a B.S. in mathematics and an LLB from Brooklyn Law School in 1956. He is a recipient of The Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a Montford Point Marine in the United States Marine Corps, during World War II.

As the first (and only) African American Mayor of NYC, major successes of note under his administration included: *"Safe Streets, Safe City: Cops and Kids"*; the revitalization of Times Square as we have come to know it; an unprecedented agreement keeping the US Open Tennis Championships in New York City for 99 years — a contract that continues to bring more financial influx to New York City than the Yankees, Mets, Knicks and Rangers COMBINED — comparable to having the Super Bowl in New York for two weeks every year! The Dinkins administration also created Fashion Week, Restaurant Week, and *Broadway on Broadway*, which have all continued to thrive for decades, attracting international attention and tremendous revenue to the city each year.

Mayor Dinkins joined Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) as a Professor in the Practice of Urban Public Policy in 1994. He has hosted the *David N. Dinkins Leadership & Public Policy Forum* for 23 years which has welcomed keynote speakers such as Representative John Lewis; Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton; NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio; and two US Attorney Generals — Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch.

Mayor Dinkins was an active participant on numerous organizational boards — with his primary focus on youth. In 2013, Mayor Dinkins became a first time author when, *A Mayor's Life: Governing New York's Gorgeous Mosaic*, was published. A memoir which chronicles the life of this devoted public servant as a New Yorker who remained in love with his city.

THE HONORABLE DAVID DINKINS VANGUARD HONOR

CREATED TO ANNUALLY RECOGNIZE A VISIONARY, INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY, THAT'S BEEN A POSITIVE FORCE IN SHAPING THE CORPS

25th ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK CITY GALA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 247th USMC BIRTHDAY
BENEFITTING SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

THE 2021 HONORABLE DAVID DINKINS VANGUARD HONOR

MONTEL WILLIAMS

**TELEVISION HOST / ACTOR / MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER
US MARINE CORPS (RET.),
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, NAVAL RESERVE (RET.)**

Montel Williams earned his media celebrity status as a riveting Emmy Award winning television personality and radio talk show host. He is a decorated naval officer, inspirational speaker, author, wellness entrepreneur and health advocate.

Williams hosted *The Montel Williams Show*, a nationally syndicated talk show distributed by CBS Paramount Television, for 17 years, taping over 3,500 shows and interviewing more than 30,000 guests focusing on key social issues involving ordinary people coping with extraordinary circumstances. He received a Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Talk Show Host; and later his show was nominated for Outstanding Talk Show two years in a row.

In 2009 Williams hosted a daily syndicated radio talk show *Montel Across America*. The program provided insight into social, political and economic issues along with information on health and wellness.

Battling Multiple Sclerosis daily, Williams has built the Living Well with Montel brand, by incorporating life experience and the information he has accumulated through personal account and professional opinions.

Shortly after being diagnosed with MS in 1999, Williams established the Montel Williams MS Foundation to further the scientific study of MS, provide financial assistance to select organizations and institutions conducting research, raise national awareness, and educate the public. The MWMSF has granted over $1.5 million dollars to research and has supported a study done at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, which discovered an MS gene.

In January 2006, Williams became the national spokesman for the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), a patient assistance clearinghouse program that has matched over 6 million Americans to public and private patient assistance programs providing them with more than $13 billion dollars of free or nearly free prescriptions.

Williams has been a prolific author of uplifting and practical books, of which four became bestsellers. They include *Living Well Emotionally: Breakthrough to a Life of Happiness*; *Living Well: 21 Days to Transform Your Life, Supercharge Your Health, and Feel Spectacular*; *Climbing Higher*; *BodyChange*; *Life Lessons and Reflections*; *A Dozen Ways to Sunday: Stories of Hope and Courage*; *Mountain Get Out of My Way: Life Lessons and Learned Truths*; and *Practical Parenting*.

Williams began his professional career in the US Marine Corps in 1974 when he enlisted in his hometown of Baltimore after graduating high school. After six months, he was meritoriously promoted twice, and in 1975, became the first black Marine selected to the Naval Academy Prep School in Newport, Rhode Island to then go on to graduate from the United States Naval Academy. He graduated with a degree in general engineering and a minor in international security affairs. He then went on to study Mandarin Chinese and Russian language at the Defense Language Institute He was then selected as special duty intelligence officer, specializing in cryptology.

Williams resides in New York with his wife Tara.

THE HONORABLE DAVID DINKINS VANGUARD HONOR

ABOUT OUR BENEFICIARY

SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S® FUND

WE WORK TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND. Semper Fi & America's Fund provides urgently needed resources and lifetime support for combat wounded. Our programs are designed with a commitment to those we serve. The Fund is dedicated to providing immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to our nation's critically wounded, ill, and injured service members, veterans, and military families.

We operate our programs and services through a "needs-based" approach. Staff and volunteers work one-on-one with our service members, veterans, and military families–providing ongoing support for as long as legitimate needs require.

Experienced at anticipating needs, our case managers often introduce new programs to further assist service members and military families throughout the journey to recovery and transition back into their communities.

The Fund can process, on average, over 130 grant requests each day. We typically deliver assistance within 24-48 hours of receiving an emergency request, and within a week for non-urgent cases.

OUR MISSION IS CRITICAL. OUR DUTY IS CLEAR. We apply donations to comprehensive, innovative, and proven programs that deliver immediate and long-lasting impact. Our promise is heartfelt and lifelong: The Fund ensures that service members and military families have the resources they need during their recovery and throughout transition back to their communities. **thefund.org**

25th ANNIVERSARY
NEW YORK CITY GALA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 247th USMC BIRTHDAY
BENEFITTING SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JIM AXELROD

CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE AND SENIOR NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT, CBS NEWS

Jim Axelrod is the chief investigative and senior national correspondent for CBS News, reporting for *CBS Mornings*, the *CBS Evening News*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, and other CBS News broadcasts.

While at CBS News, Axelrod has covered a broad range of domestic and international stories, notably the war in Iraq and the American invasion of Afghanistan. In 2003, Axelrod was the first television journalist to report live from Baghdad's Saddam International Airport immediately after it fell to U.S. troops. His live coverage of the U.S. Army firing artillery rounds into Iraqi positions was the first to be broadcast by a reporter embedded with ground troops engaged in combat in Iraq. Axelrod also covered the departure of U.S. troops from Iraq and was the last reporter to leave with the military in December 2011.

Axelrod's investigative journalism has been honored with a Peabody Award for his series on West Virginia's opioid addiction crisis, a George Polk Award for his work , and an Edward R. Murrow award for his reporting on the genetic testing industry. He was also part of the CBS News team honored with a 2010 duPont-Columbia Silver Baton for *CBS Reports: Children of the Recession*. Axelrod also won Emmy awards in 2002, 2014 and 2016.

Axelrod joined CBS News in 1996 as a Miami-based correspondent and later served in the Dallas Bureau (1997-1999) and New York Bureau (1999-2006). He also served as CBS News' chief White House correspondent (2006-2009) and was named a CBS News national correspondent in 2009. From 2012-2016, Axelrod was the anchor of the Saturday edition of *CBS Evening News*.

Before joining CBS News in 1996, he was a political reporter at WRAL-TV in Raleigh, North Carolina (1993-1996). Previously, Axelrod was a reporter for WSTM-TV Syracuse, New York (1990-1993); and at WUTR-TV Utica, New York (1989-1990). He began his career at WVII-TV Bangor, Maine, in 1989.

Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Axelrod was graduated from Cornell University in 1985 with a bachelor of arts in history and from Brown University in 1989 with a master of arts in history.

Axelrod is the author of *In The Long Run: A Father, A Son, and Unintentional Lessons In Happiness*, which was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2011.

He and his wife, Christina, have three children and live in Montclair, New Jersey.

FOUNDING CHAIR

GERRY BYRNE

VICE CHAIRMAN, PMC (PENSKE MEDIA CORP)

PMC owns leading entertainment, fashion, art and digital media brands that include *Rolling Stone*, *Variety*, WWD, *Deadline Hollywood, IndieWire, Hollywood Life, TVLine, She Media, The Robb Report*, *Art in America and South by Southwest*. Byrne's decades of accomplishments as a media executive, entrepreneur and community leader are highlighted by a long run as publisher of *Variety* where he dramatically transformed that business into a powerful, diversified, global media brand. The start-up publisher of both *Electronic Media* and *Crain's New York Business*, Byrne also successfully created *The Quill Awards* for NBC before he led a division of Nielsen that included *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Billboard. Adweek* and *Backstage*. Additionally, Byrne, serves as Executive Chairman *Washington Life Magazine*.

A staunch believer in "participation", Mr. Byrne is on the boards of numerous not-for-profits including Fisher House (Executive Committee), The Intrepid Museum, The USO, The Gotham Film & Media Institute, Veterans Advantage (Advisory Board), The Bob Woodruff Foundation, The Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research, Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Plaza, The Creative Coalition, The Hamptons International Film Festival (Chairman, Advisory Board), The John A. Reisenbach Foundation (Chairman Emeritus), and The Armory Foundation. He is also on the Advisory Board of the Fordham University Gabelli School and is a Trustee of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In November 2012, Mr. Byrne also launched, as Founder/Chairman, the first ever *Veterans Week NYC*, a series of events dedicated to honoring and supporting veterans and their families. And in May 2017, as Founder/Chairman, Mr. Byrne launched *Veterans on Campus NYC*, a veteran's support consortium comprised of all the NYC colleges and universities where veterans attend on the GI Bill.

Mr. Byrne was awarded the "Salah M. Hassanein Humanitarian Award" at ShowEast '96, New York's Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center's 2002 Distinguished Service Award and the NYPD Marine Corps Association 2002 "Semper Fi" Award for his work in the community. And in June 2009, NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg presented Mr. Byrne the "*Made In NY*" Award for his support of Gotham's entertainment and media industries. In November 2017, General Robert Neller, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, presented Mr. Byrne the Department of the Navy's Meritorious Public Service Award. And in March 2019, he was named to the Hillvets 100. Hillvets is a DC based initiative seeking to amplify the power and presence of veterans in government, policy, and politics.

Mr. Byrne is a member of The British Academy of Film & Television Arts and The New York Athletic Club.

A 1966 graduate of Fordham College, Mr. Byrne served as a Marine Officer in Vietnam in 1968/69 and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V.

Happy Birthday Marine Corps

Thank You
General David H. Berger

Congratulations
Rob Riggle
&
Montel Williams

GERRY BYRNE
&
FIRST PLATOON, A COMPANY, CLASS 1-67

THE BASIC SCHOOL
Quantico, Virginia

CO-CHAIR
ZACH ISCOL
COMMISSIONER, NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A crisis tested leader, Zachary Iscol has led in settings ranging from combat operations in Iraq to the frontlines of COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Sandy here in New York. His experience includes building a pioneering nonprofit mental healthcare provider, leading one of the premiere military journalism outlets, and serving as a strong advocate for immigrants and underserved communities. Two of his former commanding officers cited him as the officer they would personally select to lead their sons into combat.

As a Marine, he served two tours in Iraq and on other assignments throughout Africa and the Middle East. During his second tour of duty, he led a combined unit of US Marines and Iraq soldiers in some of the heaviest fighting of the Iraq War during the Second Battle of Fallujah, where he was awarded a Bronze Star for valor. He later helped build many of the components of the Marine Corps' first special operations command and deployed on one of the first MARSOC teams to deploy overseas.

Over the past decade, Iscol has built and led businesses and a nonprofit mental healthcare provider, the Headstrong Project. The Headstrong Project now cares for over 1,000 veterans a week in 30+ cities and counting to provide world-class, cost, and bureaucracy free mental healthcare veterans and service members need to recover from hidden wounds and get back to the best versions of themselves.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City, Iscol led over 40 federal, state, and city agencies as the deputy director of Joint New York Medical Station, one of the largest and only successful COVID field hospitals in the country.

A 2001 graduate of Cornell University, he was the youngest recipient of Phillips Exeter Academy's John Phillips Award, a member of the 2013 Team USA for USA Triathlon, and a grand marshal of the 2019 New York City Veterans Day Parade. In 2007, while still on active duty, he testified before the United States Senate about the need to protect Iraqi refugees, especially translators and others who put their lives in danger to help US forces.

He lives in NYC with his wife, Meredith Melling, and their four children.

A NIGHT OF TRIBUTE.
247 YEARS
OF COMMITMENT.

We are honored to celebrate the birth of your Corps and the proud lineage to which all Marines belong. As we pay tribute to 247 years of invaluable Marine service to our Nation, we also take the time to recognize our greatest honor as an agency—75 years of proud partnership with the United States Marine Corps. To all Marines who serve or have ever served, Happy Birthday.

MARINES 75 + WUNDERMAN THOMPSON

CO-CHAIR

JAKE WOOD

CEO, GROUNDSWELL

Jake Wood is the founder and CEO of Groundswell, a financial technology company sitting at the intersection of philanthropy, employee compensation, and corporate social responsibility.

Prior to launching Groundswell, Wood served as the founder and CEO of Team Rubicon, a disaster response organization that is widely considered one of America's leading nonprofits. Since 2010, Team Rubicon has recruited over 150,000 volunteers and responded to nearly 1,000 disasters and humanitarian crises. Under Wood's leadership, Team Rubicon scaled to 200 full-time employees across four offices and operated a $55 million P&L. In total, Wood helped raise nearly $300 million for Team Rubicon's work through a mix of online donor acquisition, family foundations, and corporate partnerships - to include complex licensing and co-marketing deals. Team Rubicon has become widely recognized for its strong corporate culture, which has been recognized numerous times as a "best places to work in America," and its technological innovation via partnerships with companies like Microsoft, Twilio, Palantir, and others. Wood remains Team Rubicon's chairman.

Prior to Team Rubicon, Wood served four years in an elite Marine Corps scout-sniper unit, leading Marines in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. He graduated at the top of his class at boot camp, the School of Infantry, and the Marine Scout-Sniper Course. He received three meritorious promotions, with one in combat, and is the recipient of the Navy-Marine Commendation Medal for Valor.

Wood is a sought-after thought leader on topics of organizational culture and leadership, frequently speaking at corporate and industry events. Notable corporate clients include Goldman Sachs, Intuit, Farmers Insurance, Travelers Insurance, Facebook, and Carhartt.

Wood's memoir, *Once A Warrior*, was an Amazon best-seller and Tom Brokaw stated that "it's the book America needs right now."

He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a dual degree in Business and Political Science and played four years of varsity football for the Badgers.

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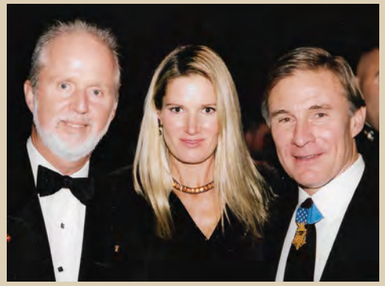
SCENES FROM 25 YEARS OF THE NEW YORK CITY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY GALA



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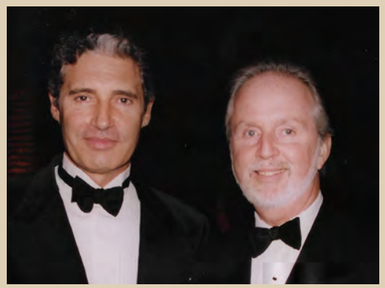

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SCENES FROM 25 YEARS OF THE NEW YORK CITY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY GALA

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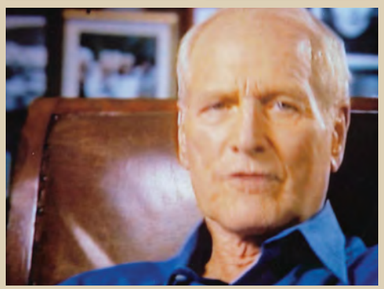

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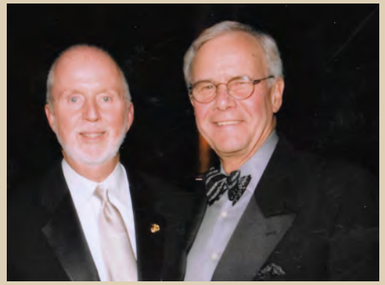

25 YEARS OF MARINE FOR LIFE AWARDEES

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RICHARD "SANDY" ALDERSON
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ADAM DRIVER
CHARLES PHILLIPS
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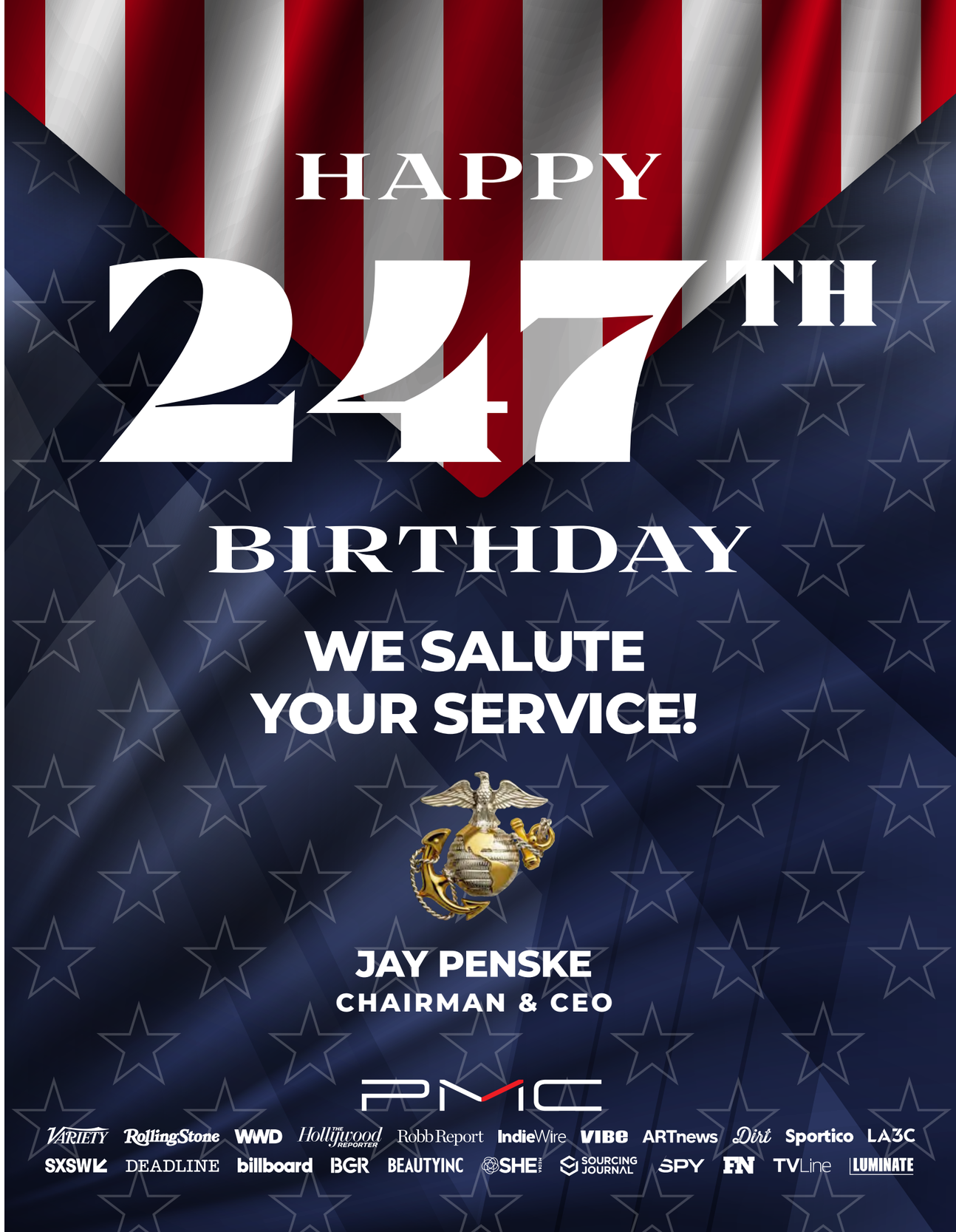
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