

A close-up photograph of a Marine in a red dress uniform, white gloves, and a white dress cap with a gold eagle emblem. He is playing a silver trumpet. The background is dark and out of focus.

**GERRY BYRNE
JAKE WOOD
ZACH ISCOL**
CO-CHAIRS

**PROUDLY PRESENT THE
27th ANNUAL
NEW YORK CITY GALA
IN CELEBRATION OF**

**THE 249th
UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS
BIRTHDAY**

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

THE INTREPID MUSEUM

BENEFITTING

**SEMPER FI &
AMERICA'S FUND**

A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE. A LEGACY TO HONOR.

Tonight, we honor all Marines. Because for 249 years, Marines have fought and won our Nation's battles and proudly continue to defend our American way of life. Happy birthday, Marines.



+ WUNDERMAN
THOMPSON

27th ANNIVERSARY NEW YORK CITY GALA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 249th USMC BIRTHDAY

Benefitting
SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

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 Eric Smith**, 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 **Rye Barcott**, founder of With Honor. And this year we are acknowledging the 20th anniversary of the battle of Fallujah, a hallmark Marine engagement in Iraq. Marine/Author, **Elliott Ackerman** will preside. 🇺🇸 And as our MC, thank you **Austin Stowell**, the Paramount star of the new series *NCIS: Origins*. Austin's character, Leroy Jethro Gibbs, originated on NCIS by Mark Harmon, was created as a Marine Corps Scout Sniper. Enough said!! 🇺🇸 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 BYRNE ZACH ISCOL JAKE WOOD
DINNER CO-CHAIRMEN

NYC
MARINE
CORPS
BIRTHDAY
GALA





in celebration of
THE
249th
USMC
BIRTHDAY

GERRY BYRNE* JAKE WOOD* ZACH ISCOL*
DINNER CO-CHAIRS

2023 DINNER COMMITTEE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
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CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

*USMC / # CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



Soaring to new heights.

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.



HAPPY 249TH BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



SEMPER FIDELIS

Congratulations to
Captain Rye Barcott
Marine for Life

Congratulations to
Elliot Ackerman, Author/Journalist
Honoring The Marines of Fallujah

FOLEY **CAT**

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION
AUSTIN STOWELL
ACTOR, NCIS: ORIGINS

WELCOME
GERRY BYRNE

REMARKS
JAKE WOOD, ZACH ISCOL

ADVANCE THE COLORS

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
**THE UNITED STATES MARINE
DRUM & BUGLE CORPS**

**THE 249th USMC BIRTHDAY
CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY**

WELCOME BY MILITARY GUEST OF HONOR
GENERAL ERIC SMITH

38th COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**THE CORPORAL ALLEN J. STRIFFLER
2024 USMC MARINE FOR LIFE AWARD
RYE BARCOTT**

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, WITH HONOR
MARINE CORPS IRAQ WAR VETERAN

**HONORING THE MARINES OF FALLUJAH
ELLIOT ACKERMAN**

AUTHOR/JOURNALIST

CLOSING



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MASTER OF CEREMONIES AUSTIN STOWELL

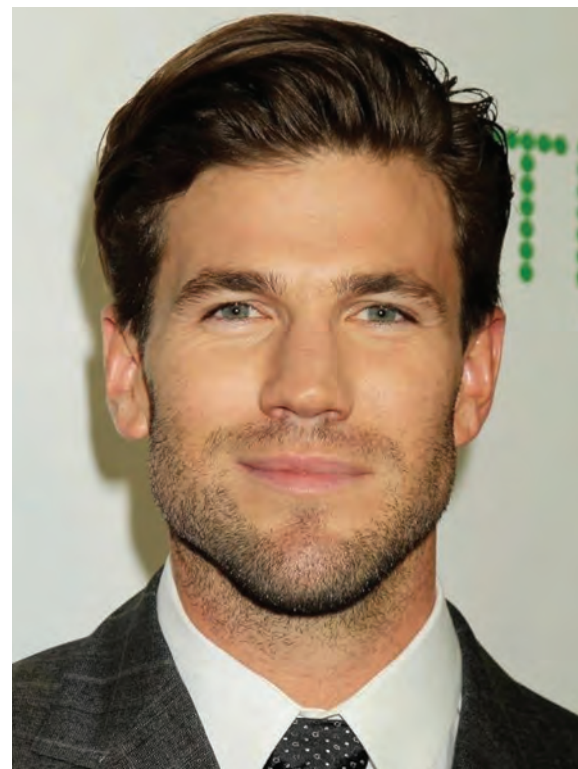
ACTOR, *NCIS: ORIGINS*

Austin Stowell stars in the new CBS series *NCIS: Origins* as Leroy Jethro Gibbs, the beloved character famously played by Mark Harmon. Set in 1991, *NCIS: Origins* follows a young Gibbs as he starts his career as a newly minted special agent at the fledgling NCIS Camp Pendleton office, where he forges his place on a gritty, ragtag team led by NCIS legend Mike Franks (Kyle Schmid).

Stowell's previous television credits include *A Friend of the Family*, *The Hating Game* opposite Lucy Hale and *Breathe*. He starred opposite George Clooney, Chris Abbott and Hugh Laurie in the limited series *Catch 22*, in Steven Spielberg's anthology series *Amazing Stories*, and in *Public Morals*, which was also executive produced by Spielberg and Ed Burns.

Stowell's feature film credits include *Battle of the Sexes* alongside Emma Stone, *Bridge of Spies* with Tom Hanks, *12 Strong* opposite Chris Hemsworth and Michael Shannon, as well as the Academy Award-winning *Whiplash* with JK Simmons, which was nominated for Best Picture and won the Audience and Grand Jury Prize at Sundance 2014. Additional credits include *Fantasy Island*, the indie award-winning drama *Swallow* and *Colossal* with Anne Hathaway and Jason Sudeikis.

Follow Stowell on Instagram @amstowell.



in
celebration
of
THE
249th
USMC
BIRTHDAY



COURAGE. COMMITMENT. CHARACTER.

Paramount is proud to salute the U.S. Marine Corps on 249 years of extraordinary service to our country.

SEMPER FIDELIS!



www.ParamountVeteransNetwork.com

MILITARY GUEST OF HONOR

GENERAL ERIC M. SMITH

39th COMMANDANT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

General Smith is currently serving as the 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Plano, Texas, General Smith graduated from Texas A&M University and was commissioned in 1987. He has commanded at every level, including Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment during Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia; 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and 8th Marine Regiment/ Regimental Combat Team 8 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He also served in Caracas, Venezuela as part of the U.S. Military Group.

As a General Officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

General Smith's staff assignments as a General Officer include serving as the Director of Capability Development Directorate, Combat Development and Integration; Senior Military Assistant to both the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense; Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration; and the 36th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.



Happy
249th Birthday,
Marines

*Congratulations
to*

RYE BARCOTT

our latest

MARINE FOR LIFE

Semper fi,

Loretta & Walter Anderson

“THE COMMANDANT’S OWN” THE UNITED STATES MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



The Commandant’s Own,” The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps performs martial and popular music for hundreds of thousands of spectators each year. Comprised of over 85 Marine musicians, dressed in ceremonial red and white uniforms, it is known world-wide as a premier musical marching unit.

Throughout the summer months the unit performs in the traditional Evening Parades held at Marine Barracks Washington, and in the Sunset Parades at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. The Drum & Bugle Corps travels more than 50,000 miles annually, performing in 500 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 signaled Marines to attack the enemy or retire for the evening. Through the 1930’s, Marine Corps posts were 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 & Bugle Corps was formed in 1934 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 tasked with Presidential support duties. For this additional role, they were awarded the scarlet and gold breast cord by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which they still proudly display on their uniform. When the war ended, the Drum & 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 unique 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 & Bugle Corps. Following Recruit Training and Marine Combat Training, the Marines are assigned to “The Commandant’s Own.”

The unit travels the world along with the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps as the United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment.

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THANK YOU

General Eric Smith
Commandant of the Marine Corps

&

CONGRATULATIONS

Rye Barcott
Marine for Life

**The Marines
of Fallujah**

PMIC
SERVICE AFFINITY GROUP



CO-FOUNDERS: ARTHUR ZACKIEWICZ & GERRY BYRNE



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.

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.



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THE CORPORAL ALLEN J. STRIFFLER
2024 USMC MARINE FOR LIFE AWARD

RYE BARCOTT

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, WITH HONOR
MARINE CORPS IRAQ WAR VETERAN

Rye Barcott is CEO of With Honor, a nonprofit that fights polarization in Congress through 36 principled veterans in Congress who have pledged to serve with integrity, civility, and courage across party lines.

Barcott cofounded With Honor with Marine Corps veteran Peter Dixon and Navy veteran David Gergen. Since 2018, the bipartisan veterans With Honor supports have passed 150 laws together, with a focus in national security and national service.

Previously, Barcott cofounded the solar power investment firm Double Time Capital with Marine Dan McCready. Barcott served as a human intelligence Marine in Bosnia, the Horn of Africa, and Iraq, where he led a CI/HUMINT team that supported Regimental Combat Teams 5 and 8 in Fallujah.

Twenty-five years ago while attending college on an NROTC scholarship, Barcott co-founded the youth leadership and public health non-governmental organization CFK Africa in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. His parents inspired him. His late father served as a Marine platoon commander with the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion in Vietnam. His mother is an anthropologist and nurse.

Barcott wrote a memoir for students. The book, *It Happened on the Way to War*, juxtaposes military service and social entrepreneurship. High schools and colleges in the U.S. and abroad selected it for summer reading programs, and Dartmouth College awarded him an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters.

He is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, Harvard Business School, and Harvard Kennedy School, where he was a Center for Public Leadership Social Enterprise Fellow. He chairs the Board of CFK Africa and serves on the advisory boards of the U.S. Institute of Peace, Veterans Bridge Home, and Power the Polls.

Barcott lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with his wife, Tracy Barcott, who is a child psychologist, and their three children: Elle, Sage, and Charlotte.



HONORING THE MARINES OF FALLUJAH

ELLIOT ACKERMAN

AUTHOR/JOURNALIST

Elliott Ackerman is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *2054*, *Halcyon*, *2034*, *Red Dress In Black and White*, *Waiting for Eden*, *Dark at the Crossing*, and *Green on Blue*, as well as the memoir *The Fifth Act: America's End in Afghanistan*, and *Places and Names: On War, Revolution and Returning*. His books have been nominated for the National Book Award, the Andrew Carnegie Medal in both fiction and nonfiction, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize among others. He is a contributing writer at *The Atlantic* and Marine veteran who served five tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, where he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart. He divides his time between New York City and Washington, D.C.



in
celebration
of
THE
249th
USMC
BIRTHDAY



MARINES & SAILORS Kilo Company

3RD BN 1ST MARINES
(RVN 1967-68)

ABOUT OUR BENEFICIARY



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

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&
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FUND**

HAPPY 249TH MARINES

The Corporal Allen J. Striffler
USMC Marine for Life Award:

RYE BARCOTT
Co-Founder and CEO,
WITH HONOR
Marine Corps
Iraq War veteran



Congratulations to our Co-Founder
Rye Barcott, Marine for Life



With Honor Co-Founders Peter Dixon, Rye Barcott, and David Gergen



With Honor fights polarization in Congress by supporting principled veterans across party lines who take the With Honor pledge. With Honor Action, our public policy nonprofit works alongside the bipartisan For Country Caucus in the U.S. House and a group of bipartisan Senators who are veterans to pass critical legislation for our nation.

With Honor Advisory Board Members aboard the USS Intrepid:
Elliot Ackerman, Kahlil "KB" Byrd, Peter Dixon, Nancy Jones, David Stapleton



visit WITHHONOR.ORG for more information.

PAUL W. BUCHA

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT,
VIETNAM, 1968.
AUGUST 1, 1943 - JULY 31, 2024



MY PRIVILEGE OF A SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP

I never met anyone like Paul "Buddy" Bucha. He was my friend. In fact, my best friend. It's an understatement to simply say he was a man of the highest integrity. Because he was so much more. I loved Paul because of all that he was. His honor, his ethics, his example, his goal to always do the right thing, his family, his inspired leadership, even his skiing...both water and snow!! He was an expert!! And always a teacher and setter of the example, for all, of how to live.

The memories of Paul shine. Paul was an extraordinary father. Jason, Heather, Lindsey and Becky. As was their mom, Carolyn. For so many years, my kids and the Buchas were family. We were close. And his kids remain living examples of all that Paul stood for. And, of course, Cynthia, the love of his life. I was with them on their first date!!

Paul attended West Point. Graduated in the top 2% percent of his 1965 class. He also collected an MBA from Stanford before he assembled an Army Ranger company "of clerks & jerks", as Bud described them, who nobody wanted. They were his and with them he built a well-trained, razor sharp company of grunts he brought to Vietnam in 1967. And, with them, Paul's actions on March 18, 1968, earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Paul left the Army in 1972 and went to work at Ross Perot's EDS as Chief of Operations based in Tehran. Post EDS, in addition to international consulting, he formed a real estate partnership with French investors that built Port Liberte, a New Jersey waterfront complex adjacent to the Statue of Liberty. He was also Chairman of the Board of Wheeling Steel and President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. And a founder/partner (with me) in Warriors Rise, an events enterprise focused on veteran's job placement.

Paul's awards and recognitions are numerous. He's a member of the 50th Anniversary Commission of the Vietnam War and is a member of the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame. He is a Gold Medallion Inductee of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award from the United States Military Academy. Paul is also a recipient of the Distinguished Military Service Award from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

What a privilege to have had Paul as my friend, my best friend. And Cynthia.

Gerry Byrne,

Captain, USMC, 1966-1969; Vietnam 1968/69



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FUND**

Happy 249th Birthday Marines

Karen and Charles Phillips

and

1LT Charles Phillips III, USMC



Happy Birthday Marine Corps

**Thank You
General Eric Smith**

**Congratulations
Rye Barcott**

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

**THE BASIC SCHOOL
Quantico, Virginia**



FOUNDING CHAIR GERRY BYRNE

VICE CHAIRMAN, PMC (PENSKE MEDIA CORP)

PMC owns or has controlling interest in leading entertainment, fashion, art and media brands that include *Rolling Stone*, *Variety*, *WWD*, *Deadline Hollywood*, *IndieWire*, *Hollywood Life*, *TVLine*, *She Media*, *The Robb Report*, *Art in America*, *South by Southwest*, *Dick Clark Productions* and *Vox Media*. 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*.

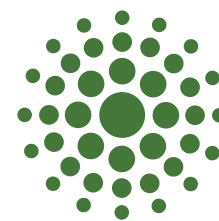
A staunch believer in "participation", Mr. Byrne is on the boards of numerous not-for-profits including Fisher House (Executive Committee), The Intrepid Museum, The USO, City Meals on Wheels, The Gotham Film & Media Institute, Veterans Advantage (Advisory Board), The Bob Woodruff Foundation, The Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research, Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Plaza, The Creative Coalition, The Hamptons International Film Festival (Chairman, Advisory Board), and The John A. Reisenbach Foundation (Chairman Emeritus). He is also on the Advisory Board of the Fordham University Gabelli School and the Board of NYC's 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. In 2022, Byrne was also elected Chairman/Founder of the *Mediflix-Vetiflix veterans' channel* launching in early 2024. Lastly, Byrne is a member of the Brand Velocity Partners "Accelerators".

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, 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. In November 2022, Byrne was inducted into the Fordham University Military Hall of Fame. 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.



BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION
Investing in the Next Chapter for Veterans

We ensure that our nation's veterans,
service members, and their families
— those who stood for us —
have stable and successful futures.

Areas we fund include:

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Legal Support

Housing

Community Building

Employment

Food Insecurity



**Celebrating the United States Marine Corps
and their 249th Birthday.**

For more information, visit www.bobwoodrufffoundation.org



in
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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.



HONOR COURAGE COMMITMENT

A gift a Marine gives to himself
Always in our prayers

We remain Semper Fidelis

PETE FITZPATRICK & FRANK DWYER



in
celebration
of
THE
249th
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BIRTHDAY

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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