

GERRY BYRNE JAKE WOOD ZACH ISCOL
CO-CHAIRS

PROUDLY PRESENT
THE 28th ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY GALA

IN CELEBRATION OF THE

250th

**UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS
BIRTHDAY**

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

THE INTREPID MUSEUM

BENEFITTING
SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND





WE'VE NEVER STORMED A BEACH.
WE'VE NEVER FOUGHT THROUGH THE NIGHT.
WE'VE NEVER FACED THE FIRE.
BUT FOR 78 YEARS,
WE'VE HAD THE DISTINCT PRIVILEGE
OF INSPIRING THOSE WHO WILL.
AS YOU CELEBRATE 250 YEARS
OF PURPOSE, PRIDE, AND HONOR,
KNOW THAT OUR GREATEST HONOR
IS TELLING THE STORY OF THE FEW.



HAPPY 250, MARINES.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE USMC-THOMPSON PARTNERSHIP.



MARINES



THOMPSON

28th ANNIVERSARY NEW YORK CITY GALA IN CELEBRATION OF THE 250th USMC BIRTHDAY

Benefitting
SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

WE ARE PLEASED AND HONORED that this evening again benefits the work of **Semper Fi & America's Fund**. Thank you **Karen Guenther, General Joe Dunford, Sergeant Major Carlton Kent** and **Kim Foley**. Semper Fi makes a difference. 🇺🇸 We gather tonight 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 also privileged to have **Carlos Ruiz, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps**, with us tonight as our Military Guest of Honor. 🇺🇸 And as our MC, thank you again **Austin Stowell**, the Paramount star of the hit 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!! And it's a great show!! 🇺🇸 Finally, our gratitude to our supporters and to tonight's 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
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BIRTHDAY
GALA

in
celebration
of

THE
250th
USMC
BIRTHDAY



in celebration of
THE
250th
USMC
BIRTHDAY

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

2025 DINNER COMMITTEE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| KEVIN AINSWORTH* | ART GORMAN* |
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| LT. GEN. MIKE DANA (RET.)* | ROBERT KENNEDY* |
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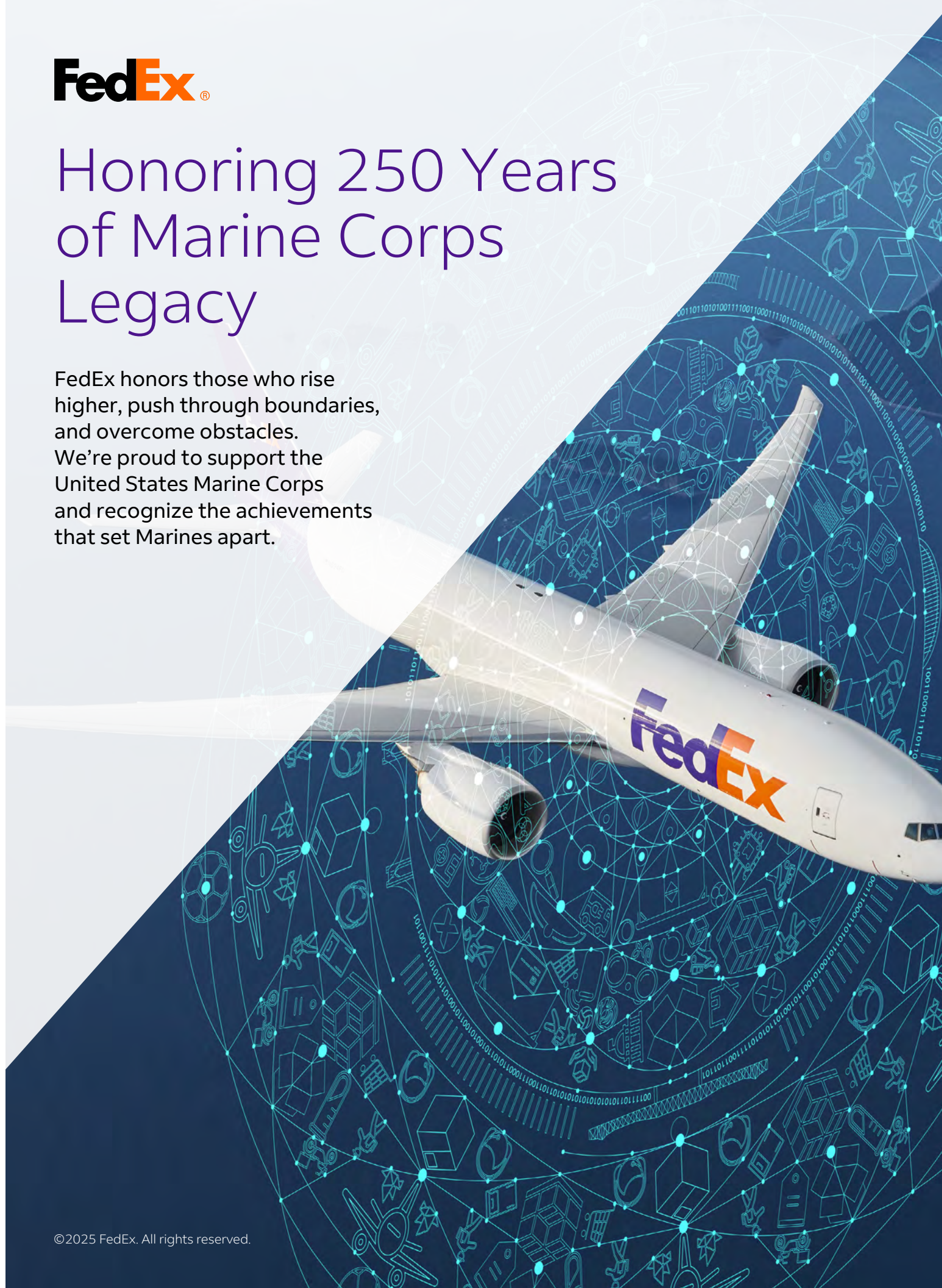
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|-------------------------------|
| MIKE O’ROURKE* |
| GEORGE OLSEN* |
| ROB RIGGLE* |
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| RENEE PARSONS |
| JAY PENSKE |
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*USMC / #CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



Honoring 250 Years of Marine Corps Legacy

FedEx honors those who rise higher, push through boundaries, and overcome obstacles. We’re proud to support the United States Marine Corps and recognize the achievements that set Marines apart.



HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



SEMPER FIDELIS

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 250th
USMC BIRTHDAY
CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY

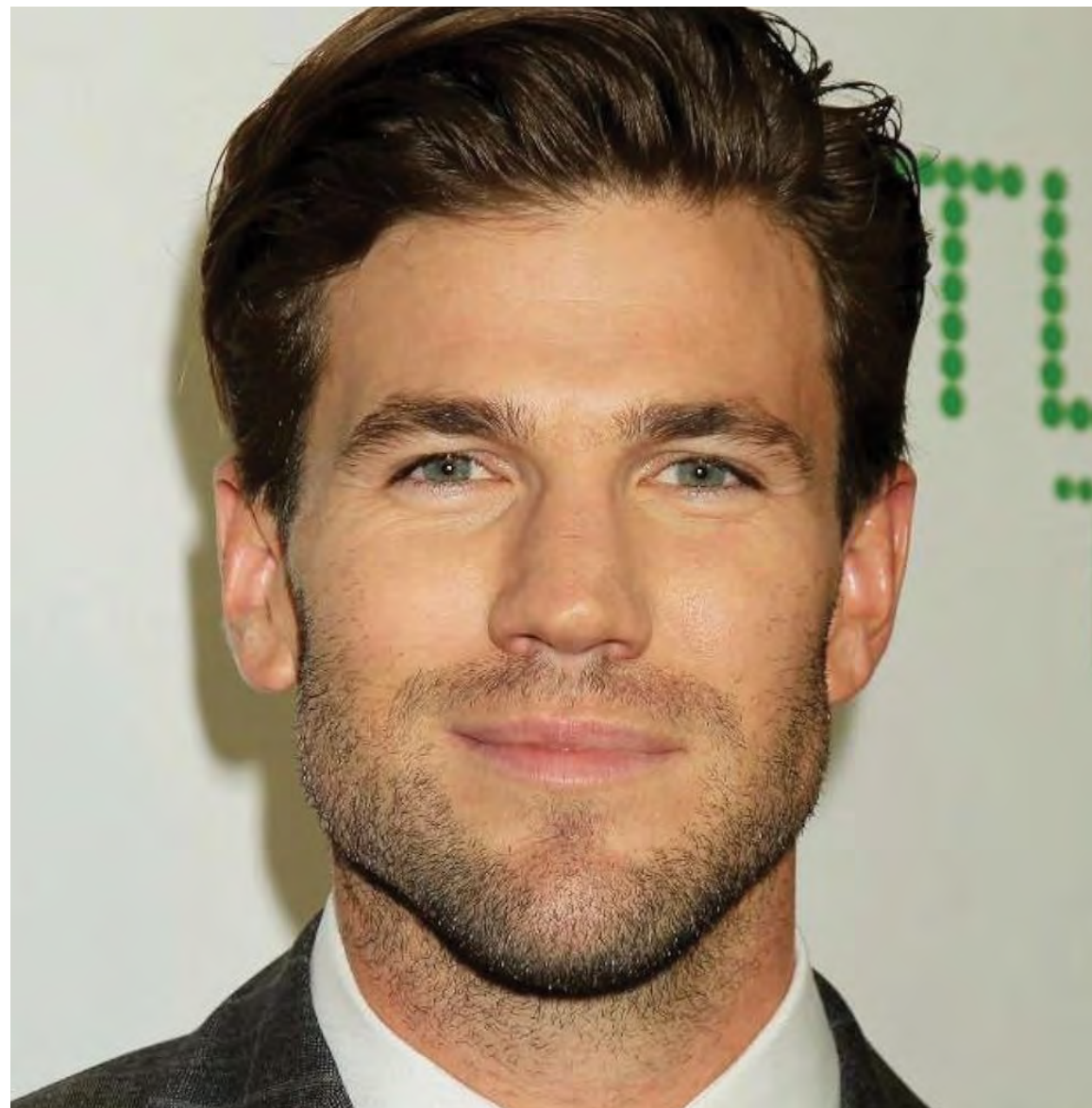
WELCOME BY
MILITARY GUEST OF HONOR
SERGEANT MAJOR CARLOS A. RUIZ
20TH SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS

CLOSING

NYC
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in celebration of
THE
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MASTER OF CEREMONIES

AUSTIN STOWELL

ACTOR, *NCIS: ORIGINS*

Austin Stowell's 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.



in
celebration
of
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In Memoriam

Stephen R. Stegich III

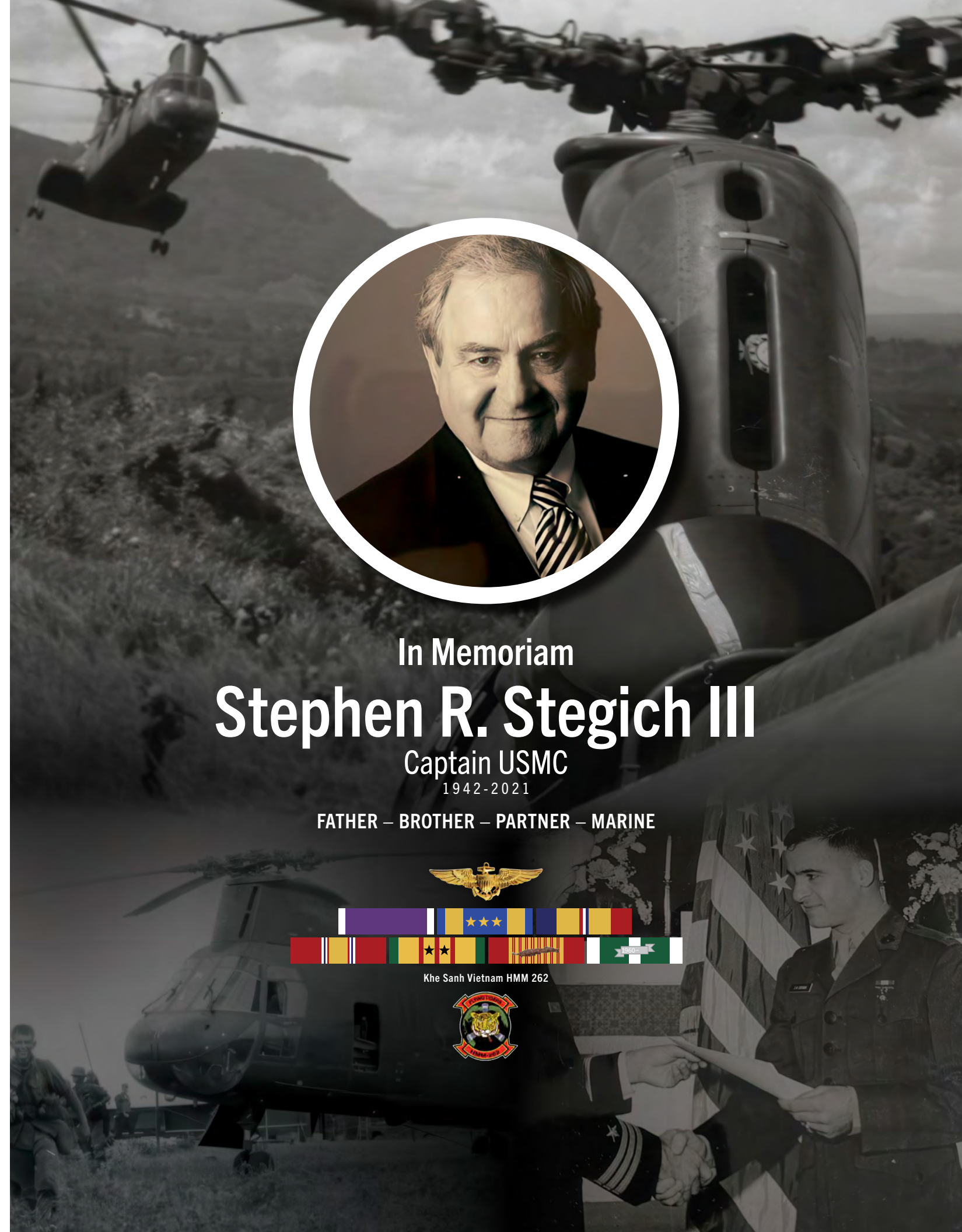
Captain USMC

1942-2021

FATHER – BROTHER – PARTNER – MARINE



Khe Sanh Vietnam HMM 262



MILITARY GUEST OF HONOR

SERGEANT MAJOR CARLOS A. RUIZ

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS

Sergeant Major Ruiz assumed his current post as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on August 10, 2023. A native of Sonora, Mexico, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on November 2, 1993, out of Buckeye, Arizona. He graduated from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, California, in January 1994 and reported to Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, California, shortly after. He was assigned as a Supply Warehouse Clerk as his military occupational specialty.

In May 1994, Sergeant Major Ruiz reported to Supply Company, 3d Supply Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan. In May 1996 he received orders to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, California, and served as a supply warehouse clerk until October 1998 when he reported to Recruiting School at MCRD San Diego. Upon graduation he was assigned to Recruiting Station Los Angeles, 12th Marine Corps District. In October 2001, Sergeant Major Ruiz reported to Supply Company, 1st Supply Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group. In January 2003 he deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, with Equipment Reception Platoon and later with Combat Service Support Group-12 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In April 2004, Sergeant Major Ruiz reported to Drill Instructor School at MCRD San Diego, orders he requested, and graduated in September 2004 with Class 4-04 as the class Honor Graduate and recipient of the Leadership Award. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. In October 2006, Sergeant Major Ruiz was transferred to the Instructor Staff, Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego. During this period he held the billets of Drill Master, Physical Training Instructor, and later the School's Chief Instructor.

In April 2008, he reported to Supply Company, Combat Service Support Group-15. He served as Company Gunnery Sergeant until February 2009

when he reported to Company L, 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, to serve as the Company First Sergeant. He subsequently deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Following the end of his first tour, Sergeant Major Ruiz was re-assigned to Headquarters and Service Company and completed a second tour to Afghanistan.

In June 2012, Sergeant Major Ruiz received orders to Inspector-Instructor Staff, Sacramento, California, to serve as the Inspector-Instructor First Sergeant. In September 2013, upon his selection to Sergeant Major, he received orders to 3d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. He served as the Battalion Landing Team Sergeant Major, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and as the Battalion Sergeant Major for Unit Deployment Program 16.1.

In May 2016, Sergeant Major Ruiz received orders to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion and in December 2016 was re-assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. On December 7, 2018, Sergeant Major Ruiz was assigned as the 4th Marine Logistics Group Sergeant Major out of New Orleans, Louisiana.

In February 2021, Sergeant Major Ruiz assumed the duties U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Sergeant Major. In May 2021, the Commander of Marine Forces Reserve assumed all authorities and responsibility of U.S. Marine Corps Forces South. As the result of the transfer of authority, Sergeant Major Ruiz served as both the MARFORRES and MARFORSOUTH Command Senior Enlisted Leader.

Sergeant Major Ruiz's personal awards include the Legion of Merit with gold star, Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star, and the Combat Action Ribbon with one gold star. He has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Arizona Global Campus.



Happy 250th Birthday, Marines

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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ABOUT OUR BENEFICIARY



KEY MOMENTS AND MILESTONES: A TIMELINE OF OUR HISTORY

Semper Fi & America's Fund (The Fund) was started in 2003 by military spouses who immediately volunteered to provide bedside support to those wounded and injured while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operated today by those same military spouses, The Fund now includes a nationwide staff of patriotic veterans, community members, and volunteers, and The Fund's model of lifelong relationships between service members, military families, and our team is completely unique among veteran nonprofits.



WE WORK TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND. 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 processes, on average, 170 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.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT. LIFELONG RESULTS. RECOVER. TRANSITION. THRIVE. 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



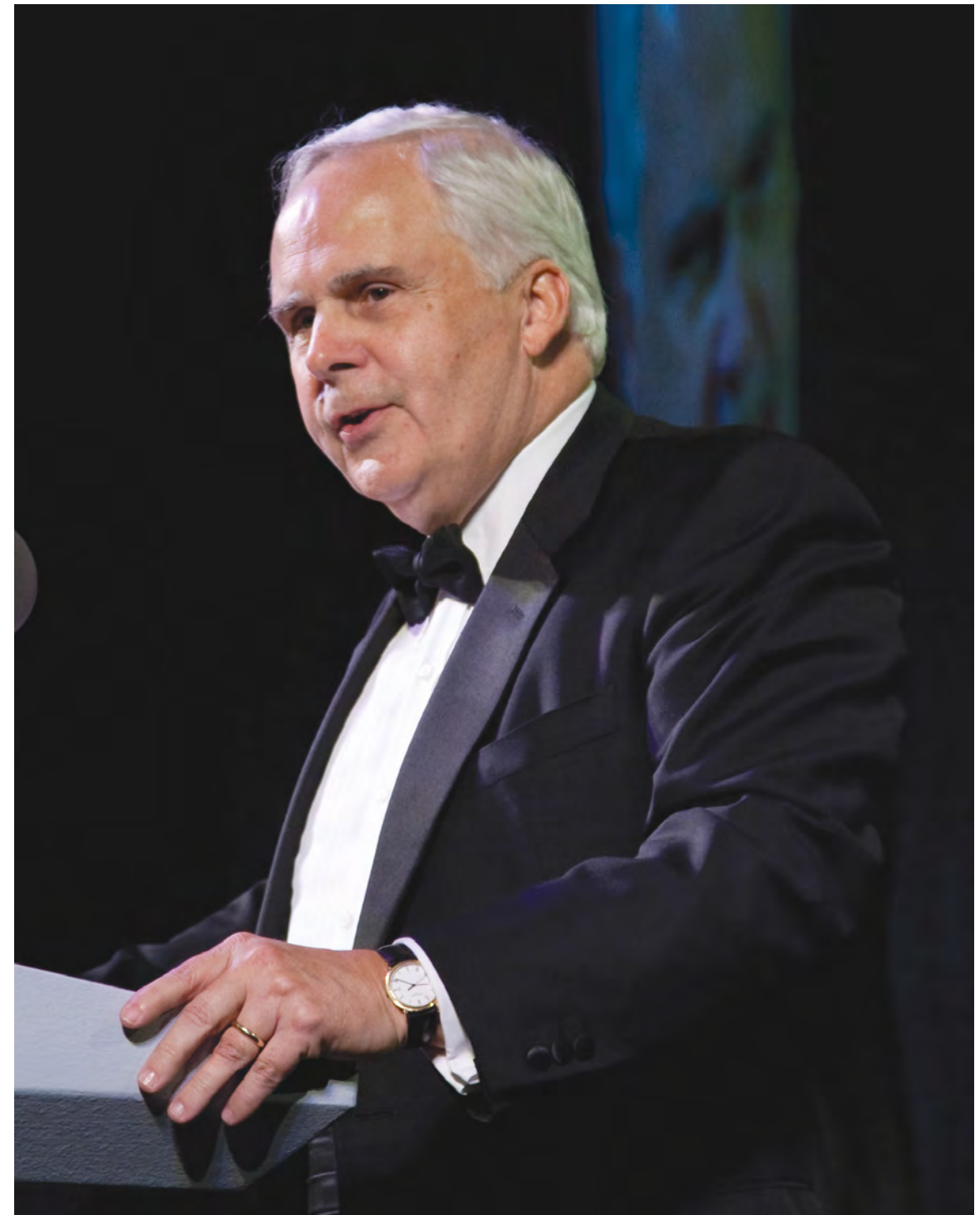
in
celebration
of
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MARINES & SAILORS **Kilo Company**

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



IN MEMORIAM **FRED SMITH**

AUGUST 11, 1944 - JUNE 21, 2025

**FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, AND LONG-TIME CHAIRMAN
AND CEO OF FEDEX CORPORATION**

NYC USMC BIRTHDAY GALA MARINE FOR LIFE AWARDEE, 2009

PHOTOGRAPH BY WENDY MOGER-BROSS

**NYC
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*in
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of*
**THE
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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.



Happy Birthday Marine Corps

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

THE BASIC SCHOOL
Quantico, Virginia



in
celebration
of
THE
250th
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BIRTHDAY

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
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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.

Happy 250th Birthday Marines

Karen and Charles Phillips

and

1LT Charles Phillips III, USMC



in
celebration
of
THE
250th
USMC
BIRTHDAY

The logo is a circular emblem with a thick white border. Inside the circle, the words "AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines. The background of the entire image is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a stage at night, illuminated with vibrant purple and blue lights. In the upper right, a large sign reads "CAN MUSIC AWARDS".

AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS

THE WORLD'S LARGEST FAN VOTED AWARD SHOW
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**SCENES FROM THE 2024 THE NEW YORK CITY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY GALA**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **WENDY MOGER-BROSS**



SPECIAL THANKS TO
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**SCENES FROM THE 2024 THE NEW YORK CITY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY GALA**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY WENDY MOGER-BROSS



CBS ORIGINAL
NCIS
ORIGINS

AUSTIN
STOWELL



CBS HONORS
250 YEARS OF THE US NAVY
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

**SCENES FROM THE 2024 THE NEW YORK CITY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY GALA**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **WENDY MOGER-BROSS**



Happy 250th Birthday Marines!



**NYC
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GATES SISTERS STUDIO
PRODUCING PARTNER

**SCENES FROM THE 2024 THE NEW YORK CITY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY GALA**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **WENDY MOGER-BROSS**



Fiserv Salutes

Fiserv honors those who serve
and we are proud to sponsor the
2025 NYC Gala in celebration of the
250th birthday of the United States
Marine Corps.



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HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY

WE SALUTE
YOUR SERVICE!



JAY PENSKE
CHAIRMAN & CEO

PNIC

billboard

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VARIETY

FAIRCHILD
MEDIA GROUP

WWD

THE
HOLLYWOOD
REPORTER

GOLDEN GLOBES

Dick Clark
Productions

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COUNTRY
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NEW YEAR'S
ROCKIN' EVE

AMERICAN
MUSIC
AWARDS

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