



## HOGS FOR HEROES ADVISORY BOARD

### **KEN GRANT**

**member since 2015**

Ken Grant currently serves as Division Administrator of the Division of Veterans Services. He oversees the Division's services which includes the Bureau of Claims which is located in Milwaukee, State Approving Agency for Education, Three Veterans Housing & Recovery Programs (VHRP) which are 2-year transitional housing programs for homeless veterans, the Incarcerated Veterans Program and the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) which provides services to veterans with mental health and substance abuse conditions. Ken's previous assignments within DVA included both the Division Administrator positions for Veterans Programs and Management Services.

Ken's other state service included three years with the Department of Workforce Development as the Program Director for the Office of Veterans Services. This statewide program was overseen by the Department of Labor and was focused on assisting veterans with obtaining employment.

Ken is a retired Army veteran with over 21 years of active service. He enlisted as a private and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. His service includes serving as a helicopter crew chief on Huey Helicopters, various infantry, ordnance, recruiting and personnel leadership assignments in Europe and while serving with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and has completed numerous other military management and leadership schools. Ken has both a BS & MS Degree in Business.

Ken and his wife are both active motorcycle enthusiasts and HOG riders. Ken has a 2009 Street Glide and his wife, Mitzi, has a 2010 Fat Boy.

### **JASON JOHNS**

**member since 8/2017**

Jason "J.J." Johns is an attorney who is the Founder and President of N.M.L.B. Veterans Advocacy Group, a legal firm focused on representation of veterans' appeals in front of the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals and U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, D.C. He is also the Founder and President of Wisconsin Legislative Strategies, Inc., a government relations firm. Both firms are based on Capitol

Square in Madison, WI and pursue legislative endeavors not only in the Wisconsin State Legislature, but state legislatures around the country and with federal agencies and Congress. Jason has previously served in state government as the deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jason's extensive involvement in veterans advocacy over the years includes serving as the National Senior Vice-Commander and National Judge Advocate of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S.A.; pro bono lobbyist for the MOPH-Department of Wisconsin and the VFW of Wisconsin; all-state Commander of VFW Post 10272; Advisory Council for the UW's Veterans Legal Clinic; U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's Veterans for Smart Power National Leadership Council; advisor to USAID's Iraq Access to Justice Program; U.S. Military Academy Nominee Selection Board for U.S. Representative Mark Pocan; Fundraising and Marketing Committee for Fisher House of Wisconsin; Board of Directors for Camp Ryan Adams and Senior Associate with the Wounded Warriors In Action Foundation.

Jason served with the Wisconsin Army National Guard and United States Army Reserves from 1994-2002. In February 2003, his old WI Army National Guard Unit, the 229th Combat Support Engineers was mobilized for active duty service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Jason left his position as a legislative aide in the WI State Legislature in order to re-enlist and join his fellow soldiers on their combat tour with the 4th Infantry Division. He was wounded in action on 26 October 2003 when his convoy was hit by an anti-tank landmine while manning a roadside checkpoint north of Samarra, Iraq. He returned home in May 2004 and received his 2nd Honorable Discharge in September 2004. His military awards include: Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Badge, Army Commendation Medal (x2), War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (w/ star), Overseas Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal and the Armed Forces Reserves Medal with an "M" for meritorious service.

Jason earned his B.As. in History and Political Science from the University of Northern Iowa in May 1998 where he was a co-captain of the UNI Men's Rugby Team. He then went on to earn his Juris Doctorate (law degree) with a certification in public international law from Hamline University School of Law in May 2001. After completing his education he practiced law in Washington, D.C. before returning home to Wisconsin in December 2002 to work in the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Jason has been riding motorcycles since he was a teenager and bought his 1st Harley Davidson immediately upon his return from Iraq. In the 13 years since he has ridden over 100,000 miles around the U.S. and Canada, riding in 45 of the "lower 48" states thus far. His passion for riding became deeper as it became his "zen" in dealing with the traumas of war and has contributed greatly to his healing and return to civilian life. This passion and recognition of the power of riding has not only led him to Hogs for Heroes, but also prompted him to found the Purple Heart Riders of WI chapter in 2015. Jason lives outside of Oregon, WI with his wife Carin and their twin daughters and son. Jason rides a 2008 Ultra Classic and is favorite saying to describe riding and what it means to him is "4 wheels move the body, but 2 wheels move the soul."

**SCOTT KRUCHTEN**  
member since 8/2016

Scott is a Marine who deployed to Iraq's "Triangle of Death" with the Madison-based Golf Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Marines in 2004. On November 8<sup>th</sup> of 2004, Scott's infantry platoon out was on patrol and his Humvee was destroyed by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Scott was critically injured, and was the only survivor of the incident.

While he received a permanent medically retirement in 2010, he remains active in the community and on veteran-related issues. He is also a board member with "Cover Me Veterans", and assists annually with Prairie Athletic Club and Crossfit Vultus's "Back to Basics" charity event. Scott has been a consultant for "Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy" (CURE) in their efforts of combating the staggering amount of Epileptic tendencies that occur after a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Scott started riding motorcycles over 25 years ago, and bought his first Harley-Davidson just after graduating high school. Scott worked at Sauk Prairie Harley-Davidson when he enlisted with the Marine Corps, and riding motorcycles was more than just a means of transportation. Unfortunately, after being injured overseas, Scott had to sell both of his motorcycles and quit the dealership because that "way of life" was no longer an option for him.

After almost a 12-year hiatus from riding motorcycles, Scott was honored to be the first recipient of a Hogs For Heroes bike in May, 2016. Scott was further honored when he asked to participate on the Hogs For Heroes Advisory Board, starting in 2017, and is excited to help more veterans get some therapeutic time behind the handlebars.

Scott lives in Sun Prairie with his wife Amy and son. He is employed by the State of Wisconsin as an HVAC Specialist Advanced. Scott is a member of Military Order of the Purple Heart, Harley Owners Group, and Purple Heart Riders (Wisconsin Chapter). Scott loves spending time with his family, his military brothers and sisters, and behind the windshield of his 2016 Road Glide Special.

**TERRY MCGOWAN**  
member since 4/2016

Terrance E. "Terry" McGowan is President/Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139, is effectively the Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer of a statewide skilled trade union primarily representing heavy equipment operators and mechanics who service the machines. Terry also serves as a General Vice President at the IUOE Headquarters in Washington D.C. Local 139 has a membership of 9,300 Operating Engineers and an annual business volume of \$12 million to \$14 million.

Local 139 is headquartered in Pewaukee and maintains branch offices in Madison, Altoona and Appleton. The union also operates a nationally renowned Training Center situated on 400 acres in Coloma, a facility that Terry led for five years in the mid-'90s while serving as the union's Training Director, Apprentice Coordinator and Financial Secretary. The state-of-the-art center is also accredited through the Fox Valley Technical College. More than 6,000 journey workers and apprentice Operating Engineers hone their skills at the center annually.

A 34-year member of Local 139, Terry also has served the members as Business Agent, Auditor, Financial Secretary, District B (Madison) Manager, Vice President and President. Terry also has been a member of the Local 139 Executive Board since 1992; the chairman of the union's Health Benefit Fund; chairman of the Wisconsin Operating Engineers Skill Improvement & Apprenticeship Fund, and chairman of the Construction Business Group, a trust fund designed to protect the interests of fair contractors. He additionally is one of five trustees from labor to serve on the Central Pension Fund of the International Union of Operating Engineers, considered one of the best managed multi-employer funds in North America.

The son of Richard J McGowan, a 35 year USN-MCB3 Senior Chief Terry has lived both on and off Naval Bases for the first six years of his life. Eventually, Terry's mother decided to stay behind in Wisconsin to raise five kids while her husband continued his career of service to his country. Terry holds a special place in his heart for families that make so many sacrifices during times of service to our nation. That is why he spearheaded a recruiting program to provide jobs as operating engineers for returning combat veterans. The program is called Combat to Construction or C2C and it has enjoyed some popular success with young veterans returning home to Wisconsin.

## **LIEUTENANT CARLOS TUCKER** **member since 2015**

Carlos Tucker is the Junior Vice Commander of VFW Post 1318 and an IT Project Manager at CUNA Mutual Group in Madison. He is also an Air Force Battlefield Weather Officer and Commander of the 126th Weather Flight at Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center with the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

He was born in Yankton, South Dakota, the son of a Fighter Pilot, but spent most of his life in New Mexico and Colorado. Tucker's military career began in 1995, enlisting in the Colorado Air National Guard as a Life Support Specialist before cross-training into Weather with the 120th Fighter Squadron and the Idaho National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team. Tucker then transferred to the 152nd Air Operations Group in Syracuse, NY where he functioned as Ops Floor Forecaster and completed the Joint Aerospace Command and Control course at Hurlburt Field, FL. He then advanced to Air Force Special Operations with the 181st Weather Flight at Carswell Field, Fort Worth,

Texas, attached to the Army 19th Special Forces Group. Tucker completed Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia and the Army Special Forces Basic Combat Course (Airborne) at Camp Williams, Utah, before deploying to Iraq in 2006. Based at FOB Central, outside of Baghdad, Tucker worked in forecasting for mission planning and combat operations for the 10th Special Forces Group. In 2007 he was brought into the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron in Louisville, KY, to serve as a Special Operations Weather Team member. As an integral Special Tactics Team member, Tucker completed Military Freefall School in Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona, the BATMAV Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator Course in Navarre Beach, Florida, multiple advanced tactics and shooting schools, as well as earned his US Army Ranger Demolition Breaching Certification. In 2010, he deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar, serving in Combined Forces Special Operations Command Central as NCOIC of Weather and Intelligence. Tucker joined the 126th Weather Flight at Volk Field in 2010. In 2012 he deployed to the 28th Operational Weather Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, where he served as an Operational Forecaster for CENTCOM. In returning to the 126th, he was made Weather Team Leader for the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. In December of 2013, after 18 years enlisted, he graduated from Officer Candidate School at the Academy of Military Science at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and continues his service with the 126<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight as Commander and Combat Brigade Team Weather OIC.

Tucker is a 2002 graduate of Metropolitan State University of Denver with a Major in Broadcast Communications and a Minor in Meteorology, and lives in Madison, WI. He is active in the community, volunteering time with multiple local charities, Veteran's organizations, and educational outreach programs. His military awards include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Reserve Force Meritorious Service Medal (w/Devices), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (w/Device), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon- Short Tour, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air Force Longevity Service Award (w/Device), and Armed Forces Reserve Medal (w/Device).