



## HOGS FOR HEROES ADVISORY BOARD

### **JASON JOHNS**

**member since 8/2017**

Jason “J.J.” Johns served with the Army’s 4th Infantry Division in Iraq. He was wounded in action on 26 October 2003 when his convoy was hit by an anti-tank land mine while manning a roadside checkpoint north of Samarra, Iraq. He returned home in May 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 is the V.P. of Corporate and Community Relations and General Counsel for the Center for Veterans Issues, a Milwaukee based nonprofit serving homeless and at-risk veterans and their families throughout Wisconsin. Jason has a solo law practice (Johns Law) where he represents his fellow veterans with their VA disability & compensation appeals, as well as providing legal consulting for small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Jason has been an active and strong advocate for his fellow veterans in Wisconsin and nationally, for over 15 years. He is a former Deputy Secretary for the Wisconsin Veterans Affairs, National Judge Advocate for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, founded the Purple Heart Rider of WI in 2015 and is now the PHR’s National V.P., President of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association from 2020-2021, the VFW of Wisconsin State Commander from 2020-2021, and has been appointed by the VFW National Commander to serve on the VFW’s National Strategic Planning Committee.

Jason has been riding motorcycles since he was a teenager and bought his first Harley-Davidson immediately upon his return from Iraq. In the 18 years since he has ridden over 120,000 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. Jason lives outside of Oregon, WI with his wife Carin and their twin daughters and son. Jason rides a 2008 Ultra Classic and his 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 4/2017**

Scott is a Marine who deployed to Iraq’s “Triangle of Death” with the Madison-based Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines in 2004. On November 8th of 2004, Scott’s infantry platoon was out 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 medical retirement in 2010, he remains active on veteran-related issues in the community. He is "Purple Heart Riders of WI" President, and was previously on the board of "Back to Basic Training", "Cover Me Veterans" and "Cover Me BLUE". 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 30 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 was 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 of their own Harley-Davidson.

Scott lives in Sun Prairie with his wife Amy, and son Jakob. He is employed by the State of Wisconsin as an HVAC Specialist Advanced. Scott is a member of several veteran organizations, and is the Wisconsin-chapter President of the Purple Heart Riders Association. 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, a statewide skilled trade union primarily representing heavy equipment operators and mechanics. Terry also serves as a General Vice President at the IUOE Headquarters in Washington D.C. Local 139 has a membership of 10,000 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. From 1995-2001, Terry was the Training Director and Apprentice Coordinator at this facility and now represents labors interest as a board member of Wisconsin Technical College System throughout all of Wisconsin's sixteen technical colleges.

A 35-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 labor/management 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 33-year USN-MCB3 Senior Chief, Terry has lived both on and off naval bases for the first 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. In 2015, Terry was approached by a group of Operating Engineers about the possibility of starting their own American Legion post. Realizing the amount of veterans in his organization, Terry did not hesitate. This was the birth of the first union American Legion Post in the country. Through finance and support, Operating Engineers American Legion Post 139 was born! Terry also takes a lot of pride in sitting on the advisory board for Hogs for Heroes. He also takes a lot of pride in coordinating fundraising events with staff and Post 139 members to help finance the cause of Hogs for Heroes.

### **CAPTAIN CARLOS TUCKER** **member since 2015**

Carlos Tucker is the Commander of VFW Post 1318 and an Air Force Battlefield Weather Officer with Wisconsin's 126th Weather Flight at Volk Air National Guard Base.

Tucker began his military career in 1995 serving with Colorado's 120th Fighter Squadron and the Idaho National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team. He then moved on to New York's 152nd Air Operations Group before crossing into Air Force Special Operations, attached to the Army 19th Special Forces Group. He was then recruited into Kentucky's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron where he served as a Special Operations Weather Technician. Carlos transferred to the 126th Weather Flight at Volk Field, WI in 2010, and after 18 years of enlisted time, was commissioned as an Air Force Officer in 2013. His deployments include Iraq in 2006 with the 10th Special Forces Group, Qatar in 2010 with Combined Forces Special Operations Command Central, and Kuwait in 2017 with the 35th Infantry Division.

Carlos has been riding motorcycles for over 35 years and lives in Middleton, WI with his wife Megan and their 4 energetic daughters. They are local Madison area business owners and are active in the community, volunteering time and holding several annual fundraisers for local non-profits and Veterans organizations.

updated 03/2022