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A VETERANS DAY  
*Tribute*  
TO LOCAL HEROES

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*Service, Sacrifice, Success*



Presented by







## Honoring Service Through Opportunity and Impact

At Ducommun, we're proud to support those who have served our nation, both through meaningful career pathways and community giving. As an approved corporate partner of the Department of Defense SkillBridge program, Ducommun provides transitioning service members with hands-on experience in areas such as Engineering and Operations, guided by veteran-to-veteran mentorship. These partnerships help bridge the gap between military and civilian life while strengthening our workforce with the unique skills and leadership veterans bring.

Through the Ducommun Foundation, we further our commitment to veterans and their families by supporting organizations such as the United Way, Fisher House Foundation, American Legion House, and the American Battle Monuments Commission with more than \$75,000 donated in the last year.

Together, we're proud to honor service, create opportunity, and give back to those who have given so much.

[Ducommun.com](https://www.ducommun.com)



Veterans from American Legion Post 33 Color Guard came out to present the California and United States flags at Ducommun's 175th anniversary celebration in Southern California on May 15th, 2024. Ducommun is a proud supporter of our country and of the men and women who serve and protect our freedom.

# From Vet to Executive

## Orange County's Finest Warriors Recount Military Lessons Learned

ORANGE COUNTY — The Business Journal is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines in this special edition. We asked 11 executives who served in the military to share their experiences. The Leader Board on page 47 features a special tribute to the late **Tom Davin**, who served as a Marine before becoming a successful local executive. —*Peter J. Brennan*

### QUANG PHAM

**Rank:** Major  
**Service:** USMC  
**Years:** 1986-1999  
**Current Company:** Cadrenal Therapeutics (Nasdaq: CVKD)  
**Role:** Chairman & CEO  
**Industry:** Biotech

**Why did you enter the military?** Pay back my debt to our country for accepting me as a refugee child from Vietnam. My late father was a South Vietnamese pilot who served alongside the Americans there.

**Enlistment age:** 21, as a junior at UCLA in 1986.

**Where did you serve?** MCAS Tustin & El Toro from 1990-99 when El Toro closed. Was the commanding general's aide-de-camp 1993-94.

**What did you learn?** How to operate under pressure in a team envi-



ronment (effort) and achieve our mission (results) = ER

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** Captain a CH-46 helicopter (age 27) off the USS Tarawa with a young crew and flew United Nations troops and Marines into Mogadishu, Somalia in September 1992.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** Know your stuff (flight procedures, rules of engagement, mission planning), practice and repeat. Keep in good physical and mental shape. Stay sharp!

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** Operation Desert Shield/Storm (1990-91), Persian Gulf/Somalia (1992) aboard the USS Tarawa. Takeaway: We live in the greatest country in the world!

**How the military helped your business career?** Decisive leadership/making decisions and taking risks without all the intelligence = helped me fundraise and run MyDrugRep.com in the early dotcom days, then with my biotech startup Cadrenal leading to an IPO in the toughest financing environment in 2023. RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY.

### GRANT WILLIAMS

**Rank:** Lieutenant Colonel Grant Williams  
**Service:** US Marine Corps. Note to editors: The word Marines is always capitalized, regardless of what Strunk and White or any other editorial protocols state!  
**Years:** 27  
**Current Company:** Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum  
**Role:** Chief Operating Officer  
**Industry:** Museum

**Why did you enter the military?** My father was a career Marine and a significant influence in my life. After college, I wanted to do something different beyond a desk or office job. I didn't plan on making the Marine Corps a career, let alone serving 27 years on active duty and the Reserves, but history had other plans. World events, challenging assignments and the privilege of serving alongside remarkable Marines kept me motivated and committed far longer than I ever anticipated.

**Enlistment age?** 19. I was a college sophomore and joined the Platoon Leadership Corps (PLC) to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) over two separate summers. It is basically boot camp for potential Marine Corps officers.

**Where did you serve?** I flew CH-46E helicopters at MCAS Tustin and MCAS El Toro, with deployments all over the world.

**What did you learn?** I learned the importance of accountability and the simple truth that if you take care of your Marines, they will take care of you. In the civilian world, you



would think taking care of your people would be an intrinsic leadership trait—but too often, it isn't. Many organizations talk about teamwork and loyalty, but few leaders understand that those things are earned through action, consistency, and genuine commitment to the people who make the mission possible.

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** The most significant experience was flying assault helicopters in combat and humanitarian relief efforts. A specific experience that I could not have done in civilian life was being embedded with the Hungarian Air Force to evaluate their helicopter tactics and Night Vision capabilities. Hungary was at that time applying to join NATO, and I am glad that it is now a full member. The Hungarians are true warriors and only make NATO stronger.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** Growing up with a Marine Corps father instilled discipline in me—though I did my best to fight it at the time. When I eventually became a Marine myself, I learned there are no shortcuts. True character is revealed when no one is watching, and that's when discipline matters most—when you choose to execute the task or mission above and beyond what is required simply because it's the right thing to do. I learned that not from speeches or manuals, but from fellow Marines who never knew I was watching.

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** I spent most of my time in the Marine Corps deployed to various African, European and Persian Gulf countries. Anyone who complains about living in the United States has never spent time outside the country to fully grasp the opportunities and quality of life they take for granted.

### MANNY MONTANEZ

**Rank:** I was medically retired after I was wounded in combat  
**Service:** Army  
**Years:** 1967-1970  
**Current Company:** EG Montanez Construction Inc  
**Role:** Founder, President & CEO  
**Industry:** Commercial & Industrial B Licensed General Contractor

**Why did you enter the military?** I was inspired by my uncle Santos, who fought and was wounded at The Battle of The Bulge, by General Patton, and President Kennedy, when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

**Enlistment age:** 18

**Where did you serve?** Republic of Vietnam

**What did you learn?** Art of War, Succeed, Survive and Triumph in War

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** Be a Tank Commander and survive in war

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** I always return to my grandfather's wisdom. "Don't forget in America baseball is America's favorite pastime. And before you can get home, you've got to go to first, second, and third. There are steps to satisfaction, to success, to love. Life's not perfect. Our faith isn't a straight line. But you keep going."

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** Coming to grips with the reality and that I was going off to war in a distant country and may never return and see my family



and friends again. There is this realization that there are many steps to survival and success in life and you don't get to skip any of them.

**How did the military help your business career?** Not here to be recognized; I'm here to stay invested. To keep the fire burning. To be a light. Leadership isn't about visibility—it's about integrity.

After a successful 22 years in a corporate career—culminating in running a division at MetLife—I retired in 2000. But rather than slowing down, family and friends would say I was crazy when I volunteered and joined the Army to go fight in a distant country, and fast forward, friends would say in 2008 when the market was in the toilet are you crazy for starting a construction business? I would tell them that as I was driving to the Long Beach VA Hospital and praying on the way, asking God to show me a way to do something more in life. As I pull up to the VA, I see many projects in various phases of construction and low and behold I see a facilities manager in the Orthopedic area where there is a lab renovation also under way, I say to the facilities person, "You sure have a lot of projects going on here, and he replies 'yes we do, and we don't have enough Veterans, especially Disabled Veteran Contractors as the VA prefers working with Veterans.'"

Growing up in a family business heavily involved in construction, the light switch was turned on as I realized that God had answered my prayers. Starting a construction business was challenging and not easy, but it allowed me to focus on mentoring, volunteering, and connecting with others.

In life, whether in business or service, my posture has always been one of presence: noticing people, learning their stories and helping them flourish.

# CRISPIMAGING

## HONORING OUR VETERAN & ACTIVE DUTY HEROES



Carter, Julie & Gary Crisp

For the 15th year, Crisp Imaging's Founder and CEO Gary Crisp and his son, Vice President of Marketing Carter Crisp, will be hosting the biggest, liveliest party these military service people will ever experience. An all-day Super Bowl LX party for 300 Camp Pendleton active-duty Marines and over 200 veterans! Its sole purpose is to honor and entertain those who have served our country with honor.

WWW.CRISPIMAGING.com



## Saluting Service. Powering the Future.

This Veterans Day, Parker proudly salutes those who have served or are serving our nation. From our teams in Orange County and around the world, we engineer mission-critical systems—flight controls, fuel, hydraulics, engine, safety systems, and thermal management—that help make aircraft safer, more efficient, and ready for what’s next. Whether commercial, business, rotorcraft, or defense, our technologies support those who keep the world moving.

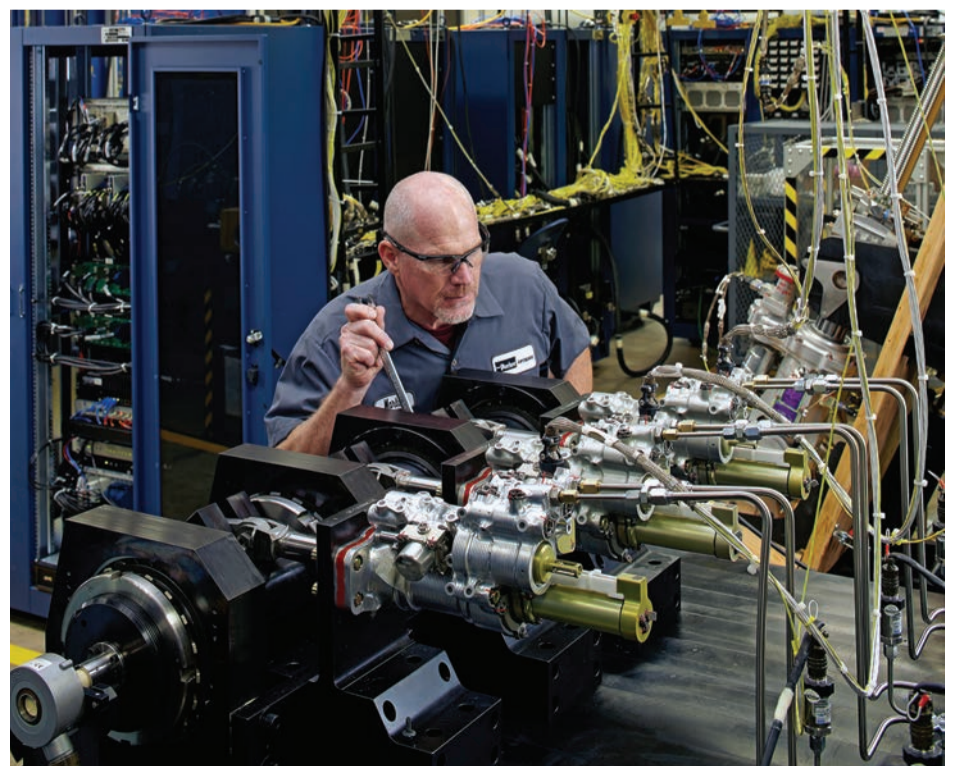
We’re equally committed to supporting veterans beyond the front lines. Veterans bring leadership, teamwork, and a mission-first mindset that elevates our culture and performance. Parker invests in veteran success through dedicated hiring initiatives, skills translation during onboarding, and structured mentorship and leadership development. Our Veterans Business Resource Group



fosters community, advocacy, and career growth, while our learning pathways and certifications help translate military experience into long-term, high-impact careers. We also provide flexible support for Guard and Reserve obligations, offer well-being resources for veterans and their families, and engage with community organizations that assist transitioning service members.

To all who have worn the uniform: thank you. Your commitment to excellence inspires the way we design, build, and support the systems that power global aviation every day.

Join us in shaping the future of aerospace. Discover career opportunities and learn how we support veterans at [parker.com/careers](http://parker.com/careers) and [parker.com/aerospace](http://parker.com/aerospace).





# HONORING THE COURAGE THAT KEEPS US FLYING

We pay tribute to the veterans whose dedication and sacrifice ensure mission readiness and the freedom to operate. Parker stands with those who served, today and every day.



[parker.com/aerospace](http://parker.com/aerospace)

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## ANDREW COSTA

**Rank:** Captain (honorable discharge in 2016)  
**Service:** Air Force  
**Years:** 5  
**Current Company:** RX3 Growth Partners  
**Role:** Partner  
**Industry:** Consumer Growth Equity Investors

**Why did you enter the military?** Beyond a calling, I was attracted to the academics, rigor and comradery.

**Enlistment age?** Attended the Air Force Academy at age 18-22; Active Duty 22-27

**Where did you serve?** Mostly stateside with training and operations in Kunsan and Ramstein

**What did you learn?** Humility. As a 22-year-old lieutenant,



Andrew Costa and spouse Kara Costa at Los Angeles Air Force Base, 2015.

to be looked to for answers from folks who have 10x your experience was a humbling experience and responsibility. Building trust beyond the rank structure and leading with uncompromising compassion were the two traits that were formed early.

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** It was constantly a "pinch me" experience—learning to fly, shoot and experience the world with a singular mission was truly unique.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** It compounds. Menial tasks done well provide the scaffolding for transformative actions to take place.

**How has the military helped your business career?** The high stakes cadence and discipline certainly helped me find a calm in the chaos during my investment banking days which built into our current fund.

## MICHAEL KRUG

**Rank:** E-5/Petty Officer Second Class  
**Service:** U.S. Navy  
**Years:** 8 years  
**Current Company:** Hoag Health  
**Role:** Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer  
**Industry:** Healthcare

**Why did you enter the military?** I was deeply inspired by my grandfather, Eldon Krug who served in the US Navy Seabee's in the early 1950s. After his enlistment, he became a master home builder and built over 150 custom homes. I've never met a more honorable, hardworking man with such high character. He taught me about purpose and pushed me to be the best version of myself.

**Enlistment age:** 17

**Where did you serve?** Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach—Detachment Fallbrook

**What did you learn?** To never compromise on professional standards. I found that the higher you set the standard, the stronger the trust you build. My early success began with mastering the basics and holding myself accountable to simple values. Treat people the way



you want to be treated. Be respectful. Be compassionate. Be humble.

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** I'm sure most people would agree and say blowing stuff up—that was pretty fun.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** You have to show up, even when you don't feel like it. Consistency builds discipline. If you keep showing up, you start to hardwire discipline into your lifestyle, and it becomes a part of who you are. To this day, I still don't rely on an alarm clock, because my internal clock knows when it's time to get after it.

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** Rota, Spain. The biggest takeaway from being stationed abroad was learning about enculturation. Immersing myself in the local cuisine, education, music, art, and lifestyle gave me a new respect and appreciation for different cultures.

**How has the military helped your business career?** Every day is a privilege to serve. That hasn't changed as I've moved through my civilian career. Our employees and patients in our Hoag community expect excellence, and I'm proud to be a part of that standard. The high expectations keep us on our toes and hold us accountable.

## SHAWN POWERS

**Rank:** Captain  
**Service:** US Army/Cavalry  
**Years:** 10  
**Current Company:** TTM Technologies  
**Role:** CHRO (Head of Human Resources/People)  
**Industry:** Electronics (Defense & Commercial)

**Why did you enter the military?** I am a third-generation soldier. My father was drafted to Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader in 1st Cav, his father was a parachutist in the 82nd Airborne and jumped into Normandy on D-Day. My mother's grandfather was navigator on the B24 in WWII and was captured in Germany after being shot down; he was a POW for a year. Several uncles served in the Army and Marines in Korea and Vietnam; it is in my blood.

**Enlistment age:** 22. I was commissioned as a 2LT in the Army after graduating from Texas A&M.

**Where did you serve?** Alabama (flight school), Texas, Hawaii, Colorado, Korea and Iraq.

**What did you learn?** I learned how to lead others, including some who were much older. And to put others first – leading is about helping others.



**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** I learned to fly tactical helicopters under dangerous conditions around the world. Last month was the first time in 21 years that I flew a helicopter! It was like riding a bike—but so much more exciting.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** Have a plan for how you approach every situation, from waking up and starting your day to preparing for a meeting. This mindset makes it much easier to pivot and adapt when the situation demands another way.

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** Yes, for the first year of the Iraq War (2003-2004). A few takeaways—men are capable of such unimaginable evil—eradicating it requires sacrifice and conviction. 2. Nothing is promised—live in the moment, be thankful and enjoy life. Our worst days are so often much better than someone's best day.

**How has the military helped your business career?** In the military, your word is your bond. You don't ask someone if they 'have your back' or if you can count on them to deliver. You earn it, expect it and always come through—there is no alternative. When you commit to someone, there should be absolutely zero doubt that it will get done right and on time.

## JOSEPH M. PREIS

**Highest Rank:** Sergeant  
**Branch:** There is only one—U.S.M.C.  
**Years of Service:** 1990-1994 / 2002-2005  
**Current Company:** Godes & Preis, LLP  
**Title:** Managing Partner  
**Industry:** Law

**Why did you enter the military?** I wanted to be a Marine like my grandfather, Capt. Joseph A. Preis, who fought in WWII. One of the most noble human beings I've ever met.

**Enlistment age:** 17. Stood on the yellow footprints of Paris Island at 18.

**Where did you serve?** Stationed out of Camp Pendleton, deployed on two WESTPACs.

**What did you learn?** Radically extreme ownership of the battle space—whether in training, garrison, or on deployment.



Joseph Preis (far right) on patrol in Somalia

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** Travel the world with hundreds of my closest friends on amphibious warships; fly in helicopters; ride in amphibious tracked vehicles; lead patrols in distant lands under hostile conditions.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** There are no excuses, and there is no "A" for effort. Get sh\*t done!

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** Operation Desert Storm (Saudi Arabia/Persian Gulf); Operation Fiery Vigil (the Philippines); and Operations Continue Hope, Show Care and More Care (Somalia). Fortunate to experience parts of the planet seldom seen by Americans at the time – and an understanding of why there are no lines outside of any embassies but our own.

**How did the military help your business career?** Be disciplined and self-reliant enough to gamble on your own success and take care of the people who take care of you.

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# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

The Tierney Center for Veteran Services is a coalition of veteran-serving organizations in Orange County who have joined hands to help veterans and their families access comprehensive, coordinated and quality services **at no cost**.



**To connect to the Tierney Center and access free services and resources, call 714.795.3170 or visit us at 1231 Warner Ave., Tustin, CA 92780.**



Powered  
by Goodwill  
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County

**TIERNEY**  **CENTER**<sup>™</sup>  
FOR VETERAN SERVICES

## Direct Services Include:

- Basic Needs
- Employment Services
- Emergency Financial Assistance

## Allow Us To Connect You With:

- VA Benefits
- Legal Assistance
- Peer Support Services
- Behavioral Health Services
- Veteran Housing Programs

A COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE SERVING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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## LUKE MUNCY

**Rank:** Sergeant – E5  
**Service:** USMC  
**Years:** 4  
**Current Company:** Southern California Motorcycles  
**Role:** Owner  
**Industry:** Motorcycle Dealership

**Why did you enter the military?** I wasn't ready for college at that time. I wanted/needed to mature.

**Enlistment age:** 18

**Where did you serve?** Stationed at Camp Pendleton and did two WestPacs

**What did you learn?** Tons of life lessons, some the hard way. But the princi-



ples of leadership have stuck with me the most.

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** We used C4 to blow up a house during a training op.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** Anyone can learn discipline with the right motivation.

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** Yes. Experiencing so many cultures at a young age opened my eyes to how people live, think and work all over the world. It taught me to appreciate what we have here but also to respect different ways of doing things. It gave me a broader sense of patience, adaptability and gratitude that still influence how I approach business and life today.

**How has the military helped your business career?** The military taught me how to hold people accountable, make decisions under pressure, and stay calm when things get tough

## TIM RABUN

**Rank:** Hospital Corpsman, Petty Officer 3rd Class  
**Service:** U.S. Navy/U.S.M.C., 1968-74

**Reason for entry:** Tradition of duty to country. Great/Great Grandfather served in the C.S.A., 1861-65. Grand Uncle served U.S. Army, WWI, 1917-18. Father served USAAF, WWII, 1942-46, Korea, US Army 1951-52. At 5'6" tall, I was too short and too light to be Army Infantry but just smart enough to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

**Enlistment age:** 19

**Current Company:** Judicial Dispute Resolution, CEO

**Industry:** Legal services, mediation and arbitration

**Deployment:** U.S. Naval Hospital Balboa, 1968-69, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, Mariana Is., Air Evac Ward, 1969-70, U.S.M.C. 1970-71

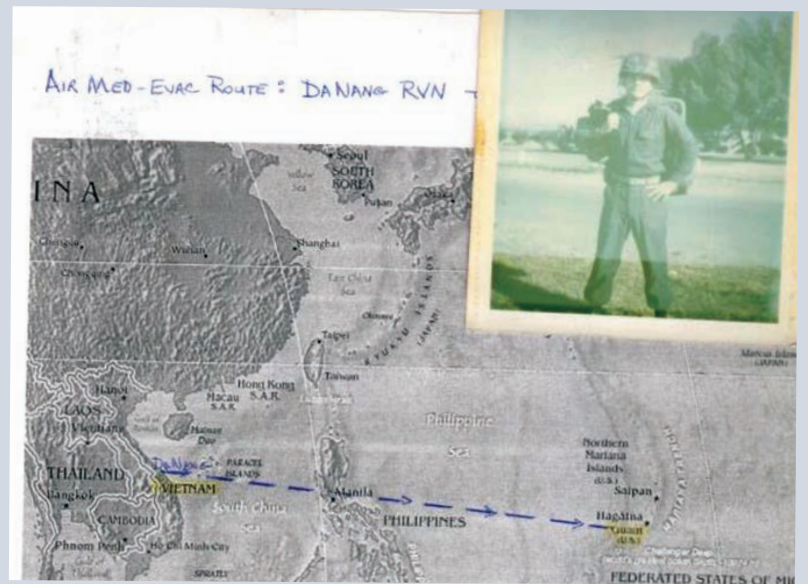
**Skills learned:** Anatomy, physiology, etc. how to triage and treat critically wounded

**Military vs. Civilian:** No comparison. Combat wounded med-evacuated from fire bases in RVN.

**Lessons learned:** Each day/night was different. In coming ranged from 50 to 150 wounded. You worked until every patient was treated, medicated, stabilized and re-examined by superiors. I learned to remain cool under pressure, to demonstrate respect, compassion, with professionalism at all times.

**Business correlation:** Find the best mentor available and willing to teach you. It changed my life.

**Business career:** Clients will always prefer people in any trade, business or profession who are knowledgeable, honest and act with integrity.



Tim Rabun with the Med Evac route from Vietnam to Agana

## KENT VALLEY

**Why:** I chose the United States Marine Corps because it looked the most challenging at the time. "The Few, The Proud, The Marines." I was 22 years old, had no idea there would be a war, and I would serve in combat in Vietnam.

**Rank:** Received my commission after graduation from The University of Idaho, which I attended on a Division I football scholarship. Military service was required for all except those who could get medical deferments.

**Current Company:** Majestic Realty Co., Nationwide Developer of Master Planned Industrial Parks.

**Role:** Ex-Vice President, Board of Directors.

**Experience:** My first duty station was Hawaii, for 2+ years before shipping out to Vietnam. Hawaii to Vietnam was an interesting change. I went from this is great to how did I get here? Now, I live with my wife, Ginni, in Newport Beach.

**What did you learn?** The USMC gave me the proud distinction of becoming an "Infantry Platoon Commander." 44 young men or teenagers that become your responsibility to train and prepare for combat. Never believing someday they would get tested under fire. We trained for nearly 2 years and became a unit ready to deploy to any part of the Globe where we were asked to protect the interest of the United States of America. We landed in Vietnam May 7, 1965. Was the Platoon Commander of 3rd Platoon Bravo Company 1st Battalion 4th Marine Regiment, 1st. Marine Division. Engaged against the Viet Cong in operations South of the DMZ. Won Bronze Star with combat "V" for Valor in combat as well as other Campaign and Unit Citations. My men served proudly. Many were wounded or made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Honorably discharged as captain from



Kent Valley at top of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, 2023

active duty in 1967.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** The word discipline defines those who serve in the USMC. That translates into the business world to keep a clear path and when things get tough pull yourself up by the bootstraps and keep going. "OORAH"

## VERNELL WILLIAMS

**Rank:** GySgt (Gunnery Sergeant)  
**Service:** U.S. Marines  
**Years:** 20  
**Current Company:** KB Home  
**Role:** Director, Forward Planning  
**Industry:** Home Building

**Why did you enter the military?** Outside of not having a clear vision of what I wanted to do when I grew up, I felt that staying in WI would not be best for me. I also needed to find a way to pay for college.

**Enlistment age:** 18

**Where did you serve?** Bases in North Carolina and California, Okinawa, Japan, Iraq 3 times, Afghanistan once

**What did you learn?** During my time in the Marines, I gained countless life lessons, but one that consistently stands out is the importance of paying attention to the details while keeping sight of the bigger picture.

**What could you do in the military that you couldn't do in civilian life?** Outside of being able to visit places far from home for free, I do miss firing some of the long-range weapons.



"While in Iraq, someone sent me this photo of my son at his schools jogathon. My son was running for me. He is the kid on the far right, and I can't imagine how difficult it is for kids to be separated from their parents or worse to lose one in combat. I do unfortunately know of a few, and its yet again another reminder of something to be grateful for."

able. They see that you're serious, prepared and dependable—and that can make all the difference when you're leading teams or managing complex projects.

**What was the biggest lesson you learned about discipline?** Discipline might be the reason the task is completed; however, integrity ensures you do it correctly and ethically, even when no one is watching.

**Did you deploy overseas and what was your takeaway?** Yes, we live in the greatest country in the world! Prior to visiting places far from the U.S., I didn't realize just how blessed we are to be Americans.

**How has the military helped your business career?** Back when I was in the Marines, we had a saying: "Early is on time, on time is late." That mindset stuck with me long after I left the service. Today, I'm obsessed with being on time to every meeting—sometimes even showing up early just to ensure I am well-prepared.

While I'm not entirely sure how this habit has directly impacted my career, I do know it sends a clear message: I respect people's time, and I'm committed to the objective at hand. In business, that kind of consistency builds trust. People notice when you're reliable.

# TO ALL OF OUR FELLOW MARINES HAPPY 250TH!

*Resolved, that two Battalions of marines be raised, consisting of one Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, two Majors, and other officers as usual in other regiments; and that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed to office, or enlisted into said Battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required; that they be enlisted and commissioned to serve for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress: that they be distinguished by the names of the first and second battalions of American Marines, and that they be considered as part of the number which the continental Army before Boston is ordered to consist of. Ordered, that a copy of the above be transmitted to the General. Journal of the continental congress, November 10, 1775. And later that same day . . . Captain Samuel Nicholas set up the first Marine Corps recruiting station, at Tun Tavern, Philadelphia. Semper Fidelis.*



**Godes & Preis LLP**

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JOSEPH PREIS, ESQ.  
MANAGING PARTNER  
Sgt., USMC 1990-1994 / 2002-2005  
Desert Storm / Somalia

OLIVER DREGER, ESQ.  
PARTNER  
LtCol., USMC 1999-2009 / 2011 - (Res)  
Iraq

*And our Marine Veteran colleagues who  
have worked with us over the years.*

ROBERT MUTH, ESQ.  
Capt., USMC 2002-2009  
Iraq

JASON BROWN, ESQ.  
Maj., USMC 2004-2014  
Afghanistan

MICHAEL KIBBE, ESQ.  
LtCol., USMC 2011-2014/2015-(Res)  
Jordan

ZACH NAVARRE  
Cpl., USMC 2006-2010  
Afghanistan

BENJAMIN REYNOLDS, ESQ.  
Cpl., USMC 2004-2008  
Iraq

[gaplegal.com](http://gaplegal.com)



## IVC Alumna and Air Force Veteran, Teana Gonsalves, Pursues a Future in Service and Leadership

After graduating from high school, Irvine Valley College (IVC) graduate Teana Gonsalves set out to fulfill a lifelong dream—to serve her country.

At just 18, she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, with her first station in Minot, North Dakota—a post she describes as “known for its below-freezing temperatures and wind speeds strong enough to break your car door.”

Originally from Medford, Oregon, Gonsalves was adopted at the age of seven after a stint in the foster care system while her biological mother faced personal and legal challenges. Over six years of service, her career took her far from Oregon and North Dakota, with assignments and travel to South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, and beyond. The discipline and purpose she found in the military became a turning point.

Serving in the security forces, Gonsalves developed skills she says continue to shape her today. “The experience taught me to be disciplined, responsible, and resilient—and to work well with others,” she reflects. “I left the military a much stronger version of myself.”

But her service was not without hardship. “What they don’t tell you about enlisting is that there will be a lot of tough times,” she says. “You face battles no one can truly prepare you for. I missed every family event back home—weddings, birthdays, funerals, births—and I also witnessed friends lose their own battles with depression while in the service.”

After completing her service, Gonsalves relocated to Orange County, determined to advocate for mental health awareness in the military community while pursuing her education. She chose Irvine Valley College for its robust veterans’ programs and found a supportive community at IVC’s Veteran Services Center (VSC).



“When you separate from the military, there’s often no one to help or support you,” she says. “IVC’s VSC welcomed me and helped me transition smoothly to civilian life.”

Through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Gonsalves worked as a student assistant at IVC’s VSC, an invaluable experience that opened her eyes to the many challenges veterans face. “My work at VSC equipped me with crucial tools and connections to help my fellow servicemembers and helped me realize how vital it is to have accessible resources, effective programs, and a supportive community.”

Gonsalves’ academic excellence matched her dedication. She graduated cum laude from IVC in 2024 with associate degrees in accounting and liberal arts, earning numerous scholarships, among them the Women’s Warrior Leadership Scholarship, the Veterans Scholarship, and the Maxwell Family Scholarship.

“Teana is an amazing woman, and I’m grateful she’s allowed me to support her and be part of her journey,” says Rose Adon, a senior veterans specialist at IVC. “I truly believe she can accomplish anything she sets her mind to.”

Today, Gonsalves is continuing her education at Chapman University, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with plans to earn her MBA. Her long-term goal: to launch her own business with a nonprofit arm dedicated to providing mental health services for veterans.

Ultimately, she says, “I want to make a difference and support people—especially those who feel they don’t have a voice or are afraid to use their own.”

[www.ivc.edu](http://www.ivc.edu)

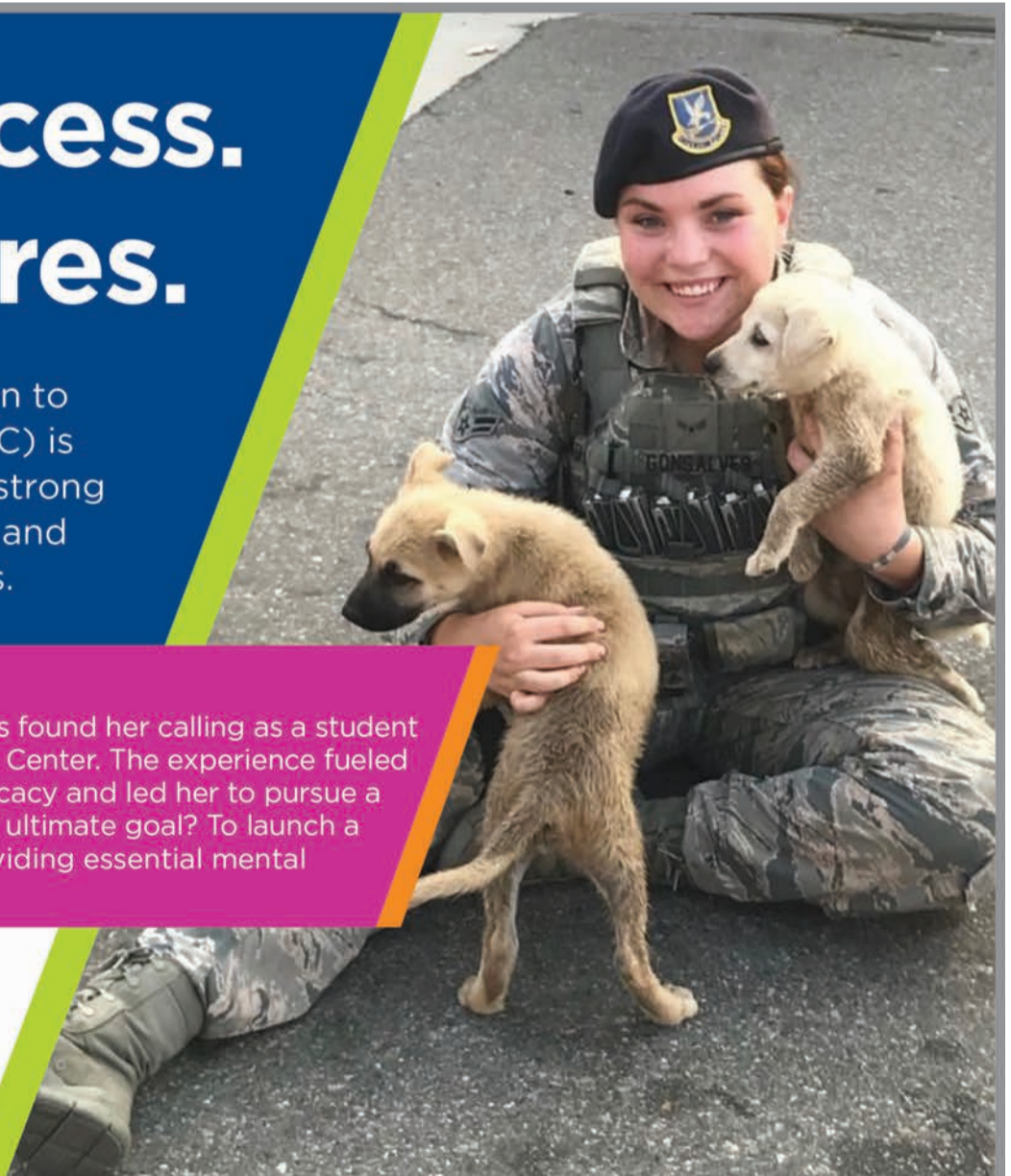
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### Meet Teana Gonsalves

Air Force veteran Teana Gonsalves found her calling as a student assistant in IVC’s Veterans Services Center. The experience fueled her passion for mental health advocacy and led her to pursue a degree at Chapman University. Her ultimate goal? To launch a business with a nonprofit arm providing essential mental health resources for veterans.



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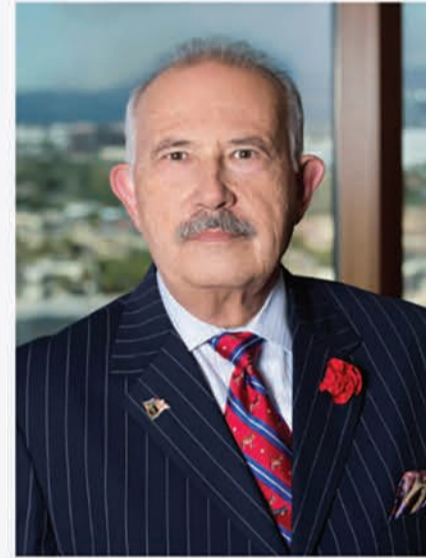
Honoring our attorneys who have bravely served this Veterans Day, we salute your dedication both in and out of uniform.



**Bart Jordan**  
*Employment Associate*



**Jeremy Jungreis**  
*Government Partner*



**Bill Marticorena**  
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