



## RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE RANGER BASE MINATRA REGISTRY

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Send biographical submissions or updates to the Historian.

Material does not represent policy, thinking, or endorsement of any agency of the United States Army or Department of Defence.

**CONTACT:** Ideas? Comments? Suggestions? Contact any Board Member. To contact the Commander, please email or text. If something is mentioned at one of our gatherings, members will try to remember, but it is BEST if Rangers get it in writing!



## **RANGERS LEADING THE WAY RANGER REGISTRY LISTING**

**BURNS, James  
DAMROW, Jeffery  
FARMER, Kenneth  
HALL, Mike  
KING, Joey  
LYONS, Nathan  
McPEAK, Gary  
TOOHEY, James  
WAGERS, Mike  
WEGNER, Dean**

**BURNS**, James H.D., First Sergeant, U.S. Army Retired, Waverly, Tennessee, 37185 - 2878  
Entered US Army 13 January 1969, Ft Myers, FL. Basic at Ft Jackson, SC. AIT Ft Polk, LA.

First duty assignment 128th Engineer Group, 24th ID, Ft Riley, KS. Attached to the Special Processing Detachment, 5th Army. ETS October 1971.

Reenlisted January 1973 Tampa, FL. Assigned to 3rd Bn, 319th Field Artillery Airborne, 101st Airborne Division, Ft Cambell, KY.

April 1974 duty as B Company, Fire Support NCO, 1st Bn Ranger, 75th Infantry, Ft Benning, GA.

October 1975 assigned to HSB, 2nd Bn, 321st Airborne Artillery, Ft Bragg, NC, as Bn Fire Support NCO for 1st Bn 504th Infantry. Later assumed duty as 1st Brigade Fire Support NCO.

October 1978 assigned to 1st Bn, 39th Field Artillery, 18th Airborne Corp, Ft Bragg, NC.

June 1979 assigned to HHC, 1st Bn Ranger, 75th Ranger, HAAF, GA as Bn Fire Support NCO and FIST Platoon Sergeant.

July 1982 assigned to the Berlin Brigade, Berlin, Germany as Fire Support NCO for 4th of 6th Infantry Bn. Later assumed duty as Berlin Brigade Fire Support NCO.

July 1984 assigned to HHC, 75th Ranger Regiment, Ft Benning, GA as the Regimental Fire Support NCO in activation of the Regiment.

April 1986 assigned to B Co, 1st Bn Ranger, 75th Infantry, HAAF, GA as the First Sergeant.

January 1987 assigned to HQ U>S> Army Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL as First Sergeant.

June 1989 assigned to the U.S. Army Berlin Brigade in C Co, 4thBn, 502nd Inf as First Sergeant.

June 1991 selected for U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Ft Bliss, TX. Elected to retire in August 1991.

James H. D. Burns, 5874 Highway 13 S, Waverly, TN 37185 - 2878

Email: [thejamesburns4@gmail.com](mailto:thejamesburns4@gmail.com) Cell: 1 (931) 622 - 6512

Adjutant of Hickman - Patterson American Legion, Post #34, Waverly, TN

REVIEWED:

8/18/2023





**DAMROW, Jeffery A.**

Born 2 March 1964 in Parkfalls, Wisconsin. Educated in Wisconsin elementary school through college. Joined the army in 1988 with the Airborne Ranger option, assigned to a B Co 1/75 Ranger Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA until 1993. Participated in both Operation Just Cause and Desert Storm. Went to Ranger school, SERE school and Sniper school while assigned to B Co 1/75.

In 1993 went to WOCS (Warrant Officer Candidate School), where I was qualified flying the UH-1 Huey and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. I had aviation assignments with the 82nd ABN, 160th SOAR, 101st ABN, 4 ID, and 2 ID. Retired in August 2008.

I currently live in Cedar Hill, Tennessee. I have two adult children, Vince and LilaAnn, and 3 granddaughters. My hobbies are automobiles and watching my granddaughter play fast pitch.

Jeffery A. Damrow  
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RLTW  
Reviewed: March 29, 2024



**Farmer**, Kenneth W., was born on July 8, 1937 in Hickman, Tennessee (Smith County). I attended elementary school there, and graduated from Gordonsville High School, Gordonsville, Tennessee in 1955.

I joined the United States Army on my 18th birthday in 1955, and was sent to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas for basic training. After basic training, I was sent to Fort Devens, Massachusetts where I graduated from Morse Code Interceptor School on April 6, 1955. I was then sent to Japan for further processing. I was assigned to the 326th Comm/Recon Company in Kyoto, Japan, and later assigned to the 14th USASA Field Station on Brady Air Force Base for three years.

I returned to the USA in May 1959 and was sent to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where I reenlisted and was sent to Fort Devens, Massachusetts. I was later assigned to the 317th USASA Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. I went to Airborne School in 1961 and was sent to the 13thRRU, 5th Special Forces. I went to Ranger School in February 1963 and graduated in April 1963. Reassigned to Okinawa, I was allowed to return home due to a family issue. Subsequently, I was reassigned to my previous unit at Fort Bragg.

In September 1963, I was sent to the 400th SOD 1st Special Forces where I spent six months. Due to my son being sick, I was posted to Co. B of the 313th USASA Bn at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

On May 1, 1964 I deployed to the Dominican Republic in support of the 82nd Airborne, and returned to Fort Campbell in June awaiting my reenlistment in July. We learned that we were being assigned to the 1st Infantry Division for deployment to Vietnam in September 1965. Again, I was assigned to Fort Bragg. Later I was assigned to the 358th ASA Co.265th ASA Co., which was formed in support of the 101st Airborne Div.

I deployed to Vietnam in December 1967 and returned to Fort Bragg after a year in Vietnam. In 1970 I was sent back to Vietnam and was assigned to the 403rd RRSOD of the 5th Special Forces. I was a Team Leader in Ban Me Thuot, and sent to Kontum, Vietnam. I returned to the USA on December 23, 1970, and was assigned to the 313rd UASA until 1973. I was then sent to Thailand on June 19, 1973, and stationed with the 7th RR Field Station until June 1974. I then proceeded to Fort Devens where I was assigned to the 401st RRSOD. Ultimately, I returned to Fort Campbell with the 101st and was assigned to the 1st Brigade until I retired on July 31, 1975. I have since lived in Clarksville, Tennessee.

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Reviewed: March 9, 2024



## **CSM Michael Thomas Hall**

### **Command Sergeant Major, Retired**

Command Sergeant Major (CSM), Retired, Michael T. Hall was born and raised near Cleveland, Ohio and entered the U.S. Army in August of 1976. After attending Basic Training, Advanced Infantry Training, and Airborne School, he was assigned to Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, (Ranger) 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Fort Stewart, Georgia. He served in a variety of positions to include mortar and 90mm recoilless rifle sections, and served as a Weapons Platoon Sergeant and Intelligence NCO.

In 1983, CSM ® Hall was assigned to the Citadel as a ROTC Military Science III Instructor and advisor to the Cordell Airborne Ranger Company. In 1985, he was reassigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment where he served as a Rifle Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, and Liaison Officer. In 1995, he was assigned to the 3d Battalion, 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Air Assault) Division as the Command Sergeant Major. In June 1996, he was assigned to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment as the Regimental Command Sergeant Major. In May 2000 he was assigned as Command Sergeant Major of the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In November 2001 he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



CSM Hall Retired on 31 July 2008 after 32 years on Active Duty with the US Army. He was retired by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment.

CSM ® Hall was employed by Lockheed Martin Corporation working in Simulation, Training and Support as a Subject Matter Expert on Irregular Warfare and Special Operations providing expertise in the development of Live, Virtual, and Constructive simulations/simulators.

CSM ® Hall was recalled from retirement on 4 August 2009 to assume the duty position of Command Sergeant Major for the International Security Assistance Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Afghanistan/United States Forces Afghanistan and served in that position until 1 September 2010. He returned to the United States and retired again from active duty on 15 October 2010.

CSM Hall is the only soldier to have held and serve as the senior enlisted advisor at the 75th Ranger Regiment, the Joint Special Operations Command and the US Army Special Operations Command. He has been the principal advisor to six General Officers.

CSM ® Hall returned to Lockheed Martin, Global Training and Logistics, as a Business Development Manager for Irregular Warfare and Stability Operations.

CSM ® Hall joined the McChrystal Group in January 2011.

In 2014, CSM ® Hall left the McChrystal Group and was an independent leadership and organization consultant for several commercial companies and the Department of Defense. In January 2017 CSM Hall accepted a position as Chief of Staff, North American Sales, the Scotts Miracle Gro Company, and continues to conduct executive coaching with CEOs.

CSM ® Hall has been involved with operational deployments; Multi-National Force Observer Mission-Sinai, Operation Just Cause, Operation Uphold Democracy, Desert Storm, Phase III, Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with OLC, Legion of Merit with OLC, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2-OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 4-OLC, Army Achievement Medal with 3-OLC, Good Conduct Medal-10<sup>th</sup> Award, National Defense Service Medal second award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead and Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 4, Multinational Force and Observers Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Afghanistan Service Medal-ISAF, the Army Superior Unit Award, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award 1-OLC. He has earned the Expert Infantryman's Badge and Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Combat Action Badge. He has also earned the Jordanian, Dutch, German Netherlands and British Jump Wings. He is a Master Parachutist with Combat Star. He is Ranger, Pathfinder, Military FreeFall, and Air Assault qualified. He is a graduate of the Sergeants Major Academy.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from New York State Regents University.

He was awarded the COL Aaron Bank Award from Association of Special Operations Professionals for contributing most to the advancement of the objectives and philosophy of the Special Operations Forces in 2009.

He was elected to the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2015.

He was honored as the 67<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Doughboy Award recipient in 2019.

He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Wounded Warrior Project, Witness to War, US Army Ranger Association, and Gallant Few, Inc.

He is an advisor on the Boards of the Global SOF Foundation, the Sua Sponte Association, and the Special Operations Medical Association.

He is the Executive Director of the Three Rangers Foundation.

He currently serves as the Honorary Command Sergeant Major of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment.

Mike grew up in Lorain county, graduated from Avon Lake High School, and is a diehard Tribe and Browns fan. He has been married to Brenda, of Sheffield Lake, OH, since 1978, and they have one son, Jeff, who is a small business owner. The Hall's currently reside in Spring Hill, TN

Mike's passion to help veteran's transition to successful civilian life.

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[m.hall@threerangersfoundation.org](mailto:m.hall@threerangersfoundation.org)

“Relationships are more important than winning the argument because, People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

Reviewed: March 7, 2024

**KING**, Joey B., was a Distinguished Military Graduate from Tennessee Technological University's Army ROTC program in Cookeville, Tennessee. He graduated from the following United States Army schools: Airborne, Ranger, Pathfinder, Air Assault, Infantry Officer's Basic Course, Jungle Expert (Panama Canal Zone), and the Infantry Officer's Mortar Platoon Officer's Course. He was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and served with A/3/325 Airborne Battalion Combat Team in Vicenza, Italy. He was a rifle platoon leader, a mortar platoon leader, and infantry company executive officer.



**Since leaving the US Army he has been active in:**

- Veterans Day Parade (Nashville, TN)
- AMVETS - Life Member, Commander, Post TN325
- US Army Ranger Association - Life Member (Southeast Regional Director, XO and CO of Middle Tennessee Ranger Base Minatra)
- Selective Service Board Member - Rutherford County, TN
- American Legion Post 5, Membership Coordinator, Boy's State Coordinator

**Joey** has been a citizenship and English-as-a-Second-Language teacher for 21 years

serving the refugee and immigrant community in Nashville, TN.

**799 Farmingdale Drive, La Vergne, TN 37086**

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[jbranger@aol.com](mailto:jbranger@aol.com)

Reviewed: March 10, 2024





**McPeak**, Gary, was a Distinguished Military Graduate and General George C. Marshall award winner from Tennessee Technological University's US Army ROTC program in Cookeville, TN. He successfully graduated from the following Army schools: Air Assault, Airborne, Ranger, Infantry Officer's Basic and Advance Courses.

He served as: Infantry and Scout Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer (Charlie Airborne, Alaska), MACOM Operations Officer (Operation Just Cause, Panama), Assistant Battalion S3, and Company Commander (82nd Airborne Division during Desert Storm).

Awards: Combat Infantryman Badge and Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

Since leaving the US Army he has been active in: US Army Ranger Association-Life Member, and DAV-Life Member. After leaving the service: Gary served in various leadership positions for manufacturing companies.

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[gjmcpeak@hotmail.com](mailto:gjmcpeak@hotmail.com)

Reviewed: FEB 23, 2024



**TOOHEY, James P., LTC, USA, Ret, was born on March 27, 1943 in Bronx, NYC, New York, and grew up in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Commissioned 2LT of Infantry in the Regular Army in December 1965 as a US Army ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Pittsburgh. Ranger Tab awarded Class 10, 1966. Served 24 years leading the way and as a founding charter member of USARA Ranger Base Minatra in 2020.**

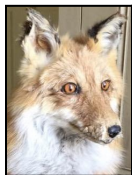
**First assignments were with the 2nd BN (ABN) and 1st BN (ABN), 501st Infantry, 101st ABN DIV. After being a Weapons Platoon Leader and Executive Officer with CO C, 2nd BN 14th INF, 25th INF DIV in Vietnam, he volunteered and commanded F CO, LRRP, 25th INF DIV, 1967 - 1968 and earned the nickname "The Fox". Awarded Purple Heart, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star at regimental level, Air Medals, and Bronze Star in Vietnam.**

**Reassigned to the Mountain Ranger Camp (Camp Merrill) as Ranger Instructor and Principle Instructor of Reconnaissance Committee. Graduated the Armored Advance Course and Command and General Staff College. Country assignment tours included South Korea, Grenada, Australia, Honduras, and Germany.**

**Diversified duties included Mech CBT SPT CO Cdr, recruiting operations officer, combat development of Tactical Operations System, Infantry Exchange Officer in Australia, Chief ABN 1st COSCOM Plans Officer, 82nd ABN DISCOM XO and CO, 407th Supply and Service BN (ABN), 82nd Airborne Division. Lastly, CO, PMS, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN culminated in commissioning 76 Lieutenants into components of the United States Army and award of sixth Meritorious Service Medal. HIGHLIGHT - winning 2nd ROTC Region's Ranger Challenge Competition against ten other university programs in 1989 following winning state competitions for three years.**

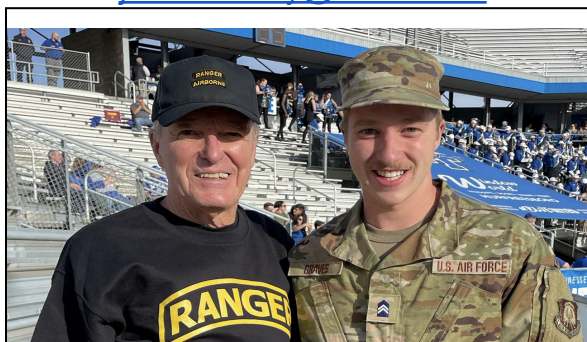
**After retiring, Jim worked for WAL-MART for 8 years and then installed window treatments/ blinds for 14 years in Memphis, TN. Member of the Mountain Ranger Association, United States Army Ranger Association, 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans. Family includes wife, Gara, 5 daughters, 10 grandsons, 3 granddaughters, and a dachshund (Lexie Sue 2E). Currently, "The Fox" 2E is residing at their cabin in Counce, TN.**

Jim Toohey  
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Counce, TN 38326



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Ranger Toohey with  
8th grandson, US Air  
Force ROTC cadet,  
Marshall Noah Graves

## Reviewed:

**WAGERS**, Michael R., Major, USA, Ret., entered the US Army on April 7, 1967, in Salt Lake City, Utah. I had been dismissed from a Military Boarding School in Illinois in February of that same year. I went back to public school but only needing one credit to graduate and afraid I would miss the war in Vietnam, I decided to enlist. I remember asking the recruiter how much I would get paid, and he replied \$87.00 a month. Finding this even less than what I was making pumping gas after school, I asked him if there was not something I could do to make more. I told him of my brother in the Navy who got Sea Pay when aboard ship. He told me that if I volunteered to jump out of airplanes, they would pay me an additional \$50 a month. Sounded good to me, so I signed up to be an Airborne Infantryman on a three-year enlistment.

Basic Training was at Fort Bliss, Texas, and for some reason along with one other guy, we ended up in a company made up of all National Guard and Enlisted Reserves, and we were the youngest guys in the company. Having already been in a military environment for the last three years, there was very little in Basic Training that I had not already done and mastered. I left Basic Training after 8 weeks headed for Fort Gordon, Georgia, and Airborne Infantry AIT.

At Fort Gordon it was a pretty basic Infantry AIT with the addition of some basic Airborne training (jump commands, PLFs and a lot of PT). Upon graduation we were all loaded on buses and shipped to Fort Benning and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Training Company, into old WWII wooden barracks, the same design and build as those at Fort Gordon. Jump School was as it had always been a lot of yelling, PT, running and endless PLFs. At the end of our second week everyone received his orders for Vietnam, and I was assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. At the end of the week after we graduated at another formation the 1SG called out a bunch of names and told us we were not going to Vietnam, but rather we were being drafted into a new program named the Non-Commissioned Officers Candidate Course (NCOC). After bitching and complaining how we all wanted to get to Vietnam, the 1SG explained to us what would happen to us. We would all be promoted to Corporal E4s (totally skipping E3) and then if we graduated in three months, we would then be promoted to Sgt. E5 and then sent to Vietnam. Well that made it all sound better.

NCOC ended up being just like Infantry Officer Candidate School without a lot of the harassment and with total focus on small unit tactics, land navigation and a lot of leadership instruction as well as extra weapons training, communications, and more PT. In hindsight it was pretty good training, I remember thinking after I got to Vietnam what it would have been like if I had not had that training. Graduation came and another surprise was slapped on us. We were to go back to Ft. Gordon and act as Assistant Drill Sergeants at, yeah Airborne Infantry AIT. This was another 9-10 weeks of OJT leading trainees (whom we had been several months earlier) through Infantry AIT. Another surprise awaited us on the completion of OJT. The day prior to our cycle graduating the Company Commander and the 1SG called me in and notified me that the Army in its infinite wisdom had authorized one out of every 12 NCOC graduates to be promoted to E6 upon completion of OJT and I was selected by the Battalion CSM and the cadre of the company and promoted to Staff Sergeant E6. I was right at one year in the Army, 19 years old as a Staff Sergeant Regular Army finally on my way to Vietnam.

When I arrived in Vietnam, (right at one year in service), I was assigned to the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade, C Company 4<sup>th</sup> BN 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. I got to the field quickly and relieved a Sergeant E5 who was the acting Platoon Sergeant. After getting settled in I realized that it was a 1<sup>st</sup> LT, 43 soldiers, mostly E3s and some E4s, and me. I served 20 months in the 173<sup>rd</sup> and returned to the states in December 1969. I had on the recommendation of my 1SG decided to reenlist while in Vietnam and reenlisted for Ft. Benning, Georgia.

At Ft. Benning I was assigned to the Ranger Department Patrolling Committee of the US Army Infantry Training Center, teaching OCS, NCOC, and IOBC techniques of patrolling and other combat skills. While

in this assignment I was constantly going to various schools; CBR, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army NCO Academy, Jump Master, Pathfinder, Instructor Training Course and who can forget Ranger School. I was also given the opportunity to attend the Canadian Arctic Warfare Instructors Course. I spent three years in the Patrolling Committee and was then assigned as a PSG to C Company Rangers at Ft. Benning, one of the last three Separate Ranger Companies. After a year and now at 25 years old I was selected for below the zone promotion to Sergeant First Class and received orders for the new NCO Advanced Course, TDY enroute to Europe. While in the Advanced Course I learned of the formation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn. I immediately volunteered and upon graduation was assigned as the PSG 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn. and to be at 25 the youngest PSG in the Battalion. After serving for 18 months in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. and in keeping with General Abrams' Charter, I was drafted into the Army Drill Sergeant Program.

After leaving the 1<sup>st</sup> RGR. Bn. I was sent on Drill Sergeant duty for three years, the last year of which was as The Drill Sergeant of the Year at TRADOC HQ. at Ft. Monroe, VA. During that time I applied for and received a Direct Commission to 1LT USAR to maintain a Dual Component Status. After Drill Sergeant duty I asked for another troop assignment and was assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Hawaii. I served as a PSG of a Scout Platoon and then 1SG of a Rifle Company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry. In late 1979 I applied for and received a discharge and an immediate call to active duty in my Reserve Rank as a 1<sup>st</sup> LT of Infantry and was assigned as an assistant S3 for three months and then Company Commander of C Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry. After having commanded for 18 months I was sent on to the Infantry Officers Advanced Course back once again to Ft. Benning. The advanced course was followed by 18 months of Boot Strap and going to college to finish my BS degree. This was followed by a second command of 51<sup>st</sup> Officer Candidate Company. At about the time I was finishing this command they activated the Ranger Regimental HQ and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Bn., and I was asked by the newly appointed Regimental Commander (Col. Wayne Downing) to leave OCS command and to join the Ranger Regimental HQ to form and set up the Ranger Indoctrination/Pre Ranger program for the Ranger Regiment. After another 18 months of commanding the RIP Detachment, it was discovered that I had some serious heart and lung problems, and I left the Ranger Regiment and was reassigned to the Infantry Test Board and the Airborne Test Platoon at Ft. Benning. This was my last assignment and I retired in April 1990 as a Major of Infantry with 23 years of active service.

**Lifetime Member of the following:**

American Legion China Post One in Exile, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans, National Association of the Purple Heart, US Army Ranger Association (USARA), Commander Emeritus of Ranger Base Minatra USARA, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Ranger Regiment Association, 2018 Inductee into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame, 32 Degree Royal Arch Mason.

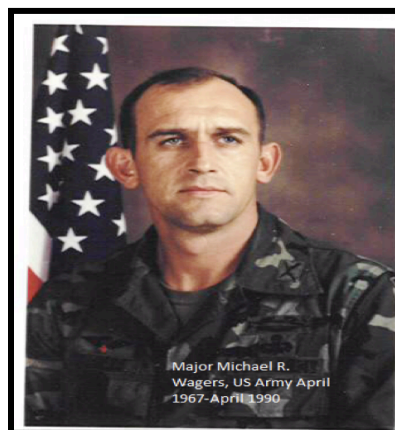
**Michael R. Wagers**

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Reviewed: March 27, 2024



March 27, 2024  
WEGNER, Dean



**DEAN WEGNER**  
*Veteran. Entrepreneur. Leader.*

**FAMILY**  
*Kelly (Bride of 29 Years)  
Kara (Daughter Age 25)  
Kayla (Daughter Age 22)  
Dylan (Son Age 19)  
Eskel (Son Age 13 – Adopted from Ethiopia)*

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**  
*Christian Leader Concepts (CLC)  
Leadership at the Peak: Center for Creative Leadership  
Executive Coach  
Corporate Athlete  
Situational Leadership  
Complete Skilled Negotiator – Gap Partnership*

**CONTACT DETAILS**  
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website: [authenticallyamerican.us](http://authenticallyamerican.us)*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER TOPICS**  
*Leading with Purpose & Values  
Servant Leadership  
Entrepreneurship  
Capital Campaign & Crowdfunding  
Marketing & Branding  
Veteran Advocacy  
American Manufacturing*


**OVERVIEW**  
Dean is the Founder & CEO of Authentically American, a Veteran owned, American made premium apparel brand. They are a company that celebrates patriotism, believes in the American worker, and honors our American heroes by intentionally donating 10% of profits to Veteran and First Responder charities. A West Point graduate, Dean served 7 years as a helicopter pilot and Army Ranger, and holds an MBA in Finance from Cal State. A majority of his business career was spent in business development, marketing, and strategy with Mars Inc. and Procter & Gamble. As a former Division I ice hockey player, he is highly competitive and possesses a tireless work ethic. His primary focus is on growth, team-building, and creating a winning culture. Dean is happily married to his bride of 29 years and they have 4 children, with the youngest being adopted from Ethiopia. Dean is active in his church and has served on the board of several for-profit and non-profit companies and organizations.

**BUSINESS EXPERIENCE**  
Authentically American – Founder & CEO  
Omega Apparel Incorporated – President/CEO/Owner  
Mars, Inc. – Strategy/Business Development/Marketing  
Procter & Gamble – Strategy/Business Development/Marketing  
KPMG Consulting – Project Manager  
United States Army – Captain/Helicopter Pilot/Ranger

**EDUCATION**  
California State University, 1999, MBA - Finance  
United States Military Academy (West Point), 1993, BS – Engineering Mgmt

**FOR PROFIT & NON-PROFIT BOARD EXPERIENCE**  
Authentically American  
Omega Apparel  
Ignite Health Group  
Nashville Zoo  
Nashville Jr. Predators Youth Hockey  
Nashville Fashion Alliance (NFA)  
SEAMS (National Association for the Sewn Products Industry)  
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)

**HOBBIES & INTERESTS**  
Community Service  
Ice Hockey  
International Travel  
Triathlons  
Golf



Reviewed: March 24, 2024