Michael Crockett is head of corporate engineering and deputy director of Navy programs at LinQuest Corporation. Crockett is responsible for program management and oversight for the company’s core U.S. Navy efforts and projects. He collaborates with LinQuest’s clients and teams to identify cost-saving solutions for the government. His team has provided real-time impact analysis, reporting and support to defense partners and ensured their ability to articulate, support and fund critical projects and programs. He was also a key player in the successful development and delivery of the LinQuest’s multi-year, multi-billion dollar contract to provide technical and management support to the U.S. Navy. Under his leadership, LinQuest has significantly expanded its capabilities and grown its business to become one of the leading providers of engineering and technical services to the U.S. Navy and other government agencies.

Eric Armstrong is co-founder and partner at Compass Consulting. His determination, work ethic and ability to stay the course come from his Marine Corps experience. He has taken that experience and successfully combined it with how businesses operate in the private sector. Armstrong is always learning and looking to improve through education and his mentors, some of whom are from his days in the Marines—more than 30 years ago. The dinner of growth for Compass Consulting, Armstrong’s ability to see what’s coming next, not only keeps the firm relevant but benefits the banking and credit union spaces it supports. Armstrong is sought out as an industry expert nationally. His six-year Marine Corps experience included three overseas tours in Asia and the Middle East, with one being a combat tour. In business, Armstrong has managed hundreds of large projects. He can be reached at eric@compassconsulting.com.

Bridgette Austin is CEO at B. Austin Consulting. Austin holds a Master of Business for Veterans from USC and has more than 23 years of military service. She has earned the Combat Action Ribbon for multiple tours in various areas of conflict. She has also served as director on multiple boards including the San Diego Veterans Coalition, the Veterans Chamber of Commerce and the nonprofit space for US4Warriors. Austin also served as a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Advisory Council member for the California Department of Veterans Affairs. She currently serves as the president for the San Diego Equality Business Association and is the co-Chair for the USC Lambda LGBT+ Alumni Association. Austin is an business coach and mentor to veterans, transition-serving members and members of the LGBTQ community. She can be reached at bridgette@baustinconsulting.com or 619-786-5843.

Mark Balmert is president and CEO at San Diego Military Advisory Council. Rear Admiral Mark Balmert capped a successful military career with a second one in the defense industry in the shipbuilding sector. Following this he took the reins at the SD Military Advisory Council where he has been the change leader in expanding SDMAC’s role to advocate for veteran employment in the San Diego region and a voice for military related policies in the region. Under his guidance, SDMAC has become the “go to” resource for understanding the role of the military in the San Diego region, helping local political and community leaders in shaping policies that will support local veterans and ensure that our local military bases are integrated into the local community. He has also partnered with other organizations focused on veterans and military affairs. He can be reached at mark@sdmac.org or 619-299-3762.

Dr. Ross Colt is medical director at Gary and Mary West Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in San Marcos. Originally from Northern California, Dr. Colt received his undergraduate degree from UC Davis, his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School and his Master of Business Administration from Pacific Lutheran University. He is a family physician with more than two decades of full spectrum clinical practice experience, including a deep background in academic medicine and leadership in managed care environments at regional and national levels. A decorated war veteran, he has served multiple combat tours in Iraq and retired after 24 years as an Army colonel. Dr. Colt has served as medical director for West PACE since 2018 and works closely with West Health to adopt innovative healthcare technologies and services for seniors. He lives in the Rancho Bernardo area of San Diego with his wife and two teenage children.

Mr. Fries is aviation services manager for San Diego Gas & Electric. Fries is a Marine Corps retiree, serving 23 years on active duty. As an FA-18 pilot and Top Gun graduate, Fries participated in eight full deployments, numerous detachments around the world and completed his active duty time in 2013 at MCAS Miramar with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Fries worked for General Atomics Aeronautical in Poway as a Program Manager and then with SDG&E. As an aviation services manager, Fries oversees high-risk helicopter and drone missions, ensuring risk mitigation, aviation safety and efficient operations. He has two master’s degrees. Fries retired from the Marine Corps as a colonel in 2015 and currently serves on many non-profit and community boards including Support The Enlisted Project, Angels of America’s Fallen and is Committee Chair for the San Diego Chamber of Commerce Defense, Veterans, Military Affairs committee.
Trial attorneys specializing in medical malpractice defense, administrative law, and personal injury since 1964.

Brigadier General Michael I. Neil, USMC, Ret.

It is with great pride that our firm recognize and nominate, not only an esteemed multi-award-winning attorney, but highly decorated combat veteran.

Thank you for your 55 years of legal service to the San Diego community and distinguished career with the United States Marine Corp.

Sir, we solute you.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Bridgette Austin, MBV
Founder/CEO
(She/Her/Hers)

on her recognition as an Influential Veteran Business Leader

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL
NOVEMBER 7, 2022
Congratulations to Cox Communications’ Ingo Hentschel and all the 2022 Top 50 Influential Veteran Business Leaders.

Thank you for your service and for your commitment to serving others in the workplace and our community.
Isaac Lee is senior VP of operations at Soapy Joe’s Car Wash. As a Marine Corps combat veteran, and decorated lieutenant colonel with more than 20 years of service, Lee served in multiple leadership roles and won myriad awards, including Meritorious Service Medal with three Gold Stars. Lee completed seven operational deployments, four being combat deployments. In 2017, Lee’s military career came to a close. He found his real passion was the people and with the help of organizations that assist with transitioning veterans and networking, he found his spot at Soapy Joe’s. Among other things, Lee has scaled the business for high-growth over three years growing sites 60% and doubling field staff during that time. Lee dedicates his free time to championing veterans’ organizations such as Support the Enlisted Project and the Marine Executive Association Camp Pendleton, an organization that assists in the transition of service members.

Wes Lundburg has been president at San Diego Miramar College since 2020. The college enrolls more than 16,000 students, offers more than 60 certificates, is a hub for transferring to universities and is a center for workforce training. Lundburg is a Coast Guard veteran who for several years owned and operated a full-service fishing charter boat company. He transitioned out of the U.S. Coast Guard to attend the University of Alaska Anchorage. Miramar is a leading institution for student veterans and other military-affiliated students. Under his guidance, Miramar established LEAD – Leading Equity, Anti-Racism and Diversity, creating a campus culture centered on equity. The college is establishing a new 800-square-foot Veterans Resource Center, letting students study, connect and plan their future. Miramar recently secured $2.5 million in state funding to support the VRC and provide services to students who are veterans, active military and military-affiliated dependents.

Hernán Luis y Prado is founder and CEO of Workshops for Warriors. A 15-year Navy veteran, Luis y Prado founded San Diego-based Workshops for Warriors in 2008, the only non-profit school in America that trains, certifies and places veterans and transitioning service members into advanced manufacturing jobs to help rebuild our nation. When he came back from Iraq in 2003, he saw firsthand the mental anguish and uncertainty that veterans struggled with. Workshops for Warriors has graduated more than 1,000 veterans into advanced careers with large manufacturers such as Tesla, Boeing, Ford and Caterpillar. Luis y Prado has been recognized as a Champion of Change by the Obama White House for his efforts helping veterans transition from the military. He was also named the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Small Business Person of the Year for 2022 for the state of California. He can be reached at info@wfw.org or 619-550-1620.

James G. Kidrick is president and CEO of San Diego Air & Space Museum. Kidrick has completed advanced courses on aviation safety from the Navy Postgraduate School, Monterey. He lectures and consults on special event development and operations. Kidrick is a proponent of advancing programs that encourage youth to pursue the STEM academic disciplines and career opportunities. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Steve Pre-witt Skull Base Disease Foundation and the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership. He is a member of the board of directors of the QED—San Diego Chapter: Experimental Aircraft Association, Airplane Owners and Pilots Association, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Association of Proposal Management Professionals, San Diego Downtown Rotary, Navy League, Tailhook Association and more. He has produced 13 air shows, the San Diego Grand Prix, San Diego Offshore Grand Prix, World Championships Jet Ski Finals and other events. He can be reached at jk@sdasm.org or 619-234-8291.
Bret Morriss is managing partner at Cast Capital Partners, which he founded in March 2022. An active pilot and lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, he and his wife have led more than 250 combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. With more than 3,000 flight hours and 850 combat hours in more than 20 aircraft including a dozen different turbine and piston powered helicopters, Morriss has also served as a pilot for Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), responsible for the transportation of the president and vice president of the United States, cabinet members and other dignitaries. Morriss sits on the board of NAIOP, a commercial real estate development association, and Urban Land Institute, as well as the committee of USD’s Burnham Moores Center for Real Estate. Morriss is also a member of the Downtown San Diego Partnership. He can be reached at bret.morriss@cast-cap.com or 619-308-6680.

Garrett Moore is co-founder and CEO at AGORUS, a construction technology startup. Despite a desire to work after earning a degree in mechanical engineering at Stanford, Moore became an officer in the Navy SEALs. He took a “team first” approach into situations where communication, calm-under-pressure and critical thinking are life-and-death matters. As a Navy SEAL, Moore was selected to become an Olmsted Scholar. After learning Hebrew from scratch, Garrett earned his master’s degree in Cybersecurity at Tel Aviv University – in Hebrew. Deployments throughout the Middle East refined Moore’s ability to lead others to achieve mission success in an environment with deadly and ever changing threats. Moore at AGORUS has secured more than $25 million in investment financing, built the world’s first digital and vertically integrated home production assembly line in San Diego and produced more than 100 homes to date, with no two units alike.

Joseph Mahon is executive VP at Level 3 Construction Inc. Mahon joined the U.S. Navy in 1961 after high school, attended basic training at Naval Training Center in San Diego and then Class A Electrician School. He was assigned to USS Koiner for the rest of his service and was honorably discharged in 1965. He attended college under the GI Bill at UC Irvine, then began a 35-year career in information technology, working for several Fortune 500 companies, relying on leadership and engineering skills he acquired in the military as a transitioning veteran. Mahon’s knowledge of information technology, human resources and leadership, project management, office and business process and procedures helped Level 3 Construction get off to a rapid start. His decision for the company to use ProCore and ProEst in early 2013 was a communication key. He can be reached at jmmahon@level3construction.com or 760-930-9602.
Rebecca Nitka served in the United States Marine Corps from late 1997 to 2003. As a Sergeant of Marines (E-5), her MOS was 2831 Multichannel Equipment repair, and she served as a training non-commissioned officer (NCO) for 160+ Marines. Nitka's schooling was facilitated by utilizing the GI Bill and Disabled Vocational Rehab Programs to obtain an Associate of Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Science and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. She has been an employee of Millennium Health since 2012, moving up the ladder from working as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist to Director of Laboratory Operations. Nitka holds a variety of certifications including the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP), a California State License (CDPH) and a Nevada State License (NDBPH). She has completed the six-month Be Bold women's leadership course and Manager Training Program provided by Millennium Health.

John O'Brien is the Founder and President of Flagg Coastal Homes, a Coronado-based Residential Design Build Company. Since 2000, Flagg has designed and built over 75 homes, primarily in Coronado and La Playa. Flagg's iconic, coastal-inspired homes have been featured in national publications, including the cover and feature section in Coastal Living Magazine. The company was also recognized with a half hour television special on Today's Builder. O'Brien is a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and arrived in San Diego the very week that the Coronado Bridge opened. His Navy tours included a three-year tour with Coastal River Squadron One as Officer in Charge of a Vietnam-era Nasty-class PTF (PT Boat). After leaving the Navy in 1974, O'Brien embarked on a real estate and building career which continues to this day. He can be reached at jobrien@flagg.com or 619-435-1800.

Neil O'Connell hails from Natick, Massachusetts. The oldest of five sons, he grew up on Cape Cod and entered the Marine Corps in 1977. Serving in the Marines for 33 years, he rose to the rank of Sergeant Major—a rank he proudly wore for 13 years—and was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Shortly after retiring from the Marines at Camp Pendleton in February 2012, he was recruited to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Mount Soledad Memorial Association. During his tenure he has dedicated his time supporting the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Services as well as conducting numerous Veterans Honor Ceremonies, membership development and fundraising in support of the memorial and served as the President and CEO of the Association from 2018 to 2021. He presently leads the Association as the Executive Director. He can be reached at neiloconnell@soledadmemorial.org or 619-838-2964.

Chula Vista Brewery was founded by Timothy Parker in 2015, and his wife Dali, as an homage to their two children. He started the brewery while still active in the U.S. Navy as a search-and-rescue team member. His first location opened in 2017, and he retired from the military in 2019 after a 20-year career. Chula Vista Brewery is San Diego County’s only Black-owned brewery. It’s a place where locals and surrounding area residents can gather and enjoy good company in a relaxed atmosphere. In 2017, Parker was honored to win the experienceship award from the Samuel Adams Brewing the American Dream program through local microlender Access. It gave him the opportunity to brew alongside Samuel Adams Founder Jim Koch. In 2021, Parker opened Chula Vista Brewery of Eastlake, and through his two locations, he has created nearly 50 jobs. He can be reached at parkert@chulavistabrewery.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
michael taylor
ON HIS RECOGNITION AS A 2022 TOP 50 INFLUENTIAL VETERAN BUSINESS LEADER.


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Chip Parker is the Founder and Managing Director of LabX Ventures. He has 30 plus years of C-level business background that includes operations, sales, marketing and publishing in addition to capital formation, management and board building. Within the venture capital and angel investing space, he specializes in technology and life sciences. He started his career in the U.S. Coast Guard, specializing in high-sea rescue. Parker is the chief architect of a new discipline of venture capital called Venture Capital 3.0 which consolidates a broad knowledge base within key facets of the venture community, and brings Parker’s innovative, inclusive and complete approach to venture capital investing for both the entrepreneur and investors. LabX Ventures and LabX Capital is a culmination of Parker’s lifelong work, vision and diverse personal and business history. He can be reached at cparker@labxventures or 949-636-5655.

Jamie A. Plemons is owner of Advanced Estate Planning, a family business. At 23 she decided to take a break from the business and joined the Army. She says she learned things she would never have been able to learn or experience in the family business, and that the military helped her cultivate and expand her ability to lead others. She also says her military background helped her persevere and continue her work following family tragedies. Some of her recent accomplishments include obtaining her Certified Estate Planner designation in 2020 and Certified Medicaid Planner designation in 2021. Plemons serves on the board of her homeowners association, trying to improve her neighborhood. She also works throughout the year to support the San Diego ALS Association. She has donated services to both the ALS community as well as the LGBTQ+ community. She can be reached at jamie@advancedestateplanning.com or 619-581-9591.

Stephen Quinn, commonly addressed as Steve Quinn, President and CEO of American Property Enterprises, is a licensed Real Estate Broker in California. He maintains Instructor Credentials in Real Estate Finance and Law from the California Community College System. In the past, Quinn was a member of the San Diego chapter of the Mortgage Bankers of America and served as Chairman of the Income Property Committee of the California MBA. Currently, Quinn sits on the Board of Directors for the pro-business organization, San Diego Lincoln Club, is a member of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP), Urban Land Institute and the San Diego Housing Federation. Quinn attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his B.A. and his J.D. from the School of Law. Quinn also proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for many years, achieving the rank of Major.

William Reed is CEO of Aretanium. He is a passionate, caring and inspiring leader with a strong spiritual compass who is dedicated to helping veterans and small business owners. He is a decorated former U.S. Navy Diver who conducted joint missions with SEAL Team One during the Cold War. He co-founded an award-winning veterans nonprofit that partners with the VA and National Guard to help veterans and their families. Reed is co-founder of several startups, one acquired by Intel and one by Helius. He leveraged over a decade of experience as an executive consultant for clients such as Avnet, Booz Allen, Cisco, HP, Oracle, SAP and Visa, as well as dozens of small firms, to understand employment and recruiting challenges in a remote/hybrid world. He wrote an award-winning leadership book on the topic that features a foreword written by a former Deputy Secretary of Defense. He can be reached at bc@aretanium.com or 408-771-7491.

Congratulations to our partner Sean Southard, an Influential Veteran Business Leader!

Since helping to found the firm nine years ago, Sean has played an essential role in the continued growth and success of CGS3 – parlaying his training as a U.S. Naval Officer into the complex world of commercial real estate law.

CONGRATULATIONS

Maj. Gen. Tony Jackson

The California State University San Marcos Foundation Board congratulates retired Maj. Gen. Tony Jackson for his leadership in our region and support of military-affiliated students at CSUSM.
**MARK SANDERS**
President and CEO
R3 Strategic Support Group, Inc.

Mark Sanders, President and CEO of R3, retired from the U.S. Navy after more than 20 years with qualifications as a Special Operations officer, Master EOD technician, Surface Warfare Officer, naval parachutist, deep-sea mixed gas diving officer, and joint specialty officer. His last three assignments were focused on the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) threat. He is chairman of the board of advisors of Command Post Technologies, a cybersecurity and network engineering government services firm. He is on the Executive Board of the NDIA Explosive Ordnance Disposal Planning and Advisory Committee, the Advisory Board of the Navy Special Operations Foundations and on the Board of Directors of the EOD Warrior Foundation. His business, R3, a Service Disabled Veteran and Employee-Owned Company based in Coronado with 100 employees in 25 states and four countries providing training, logistics and maintenance to special operations units globally. He can be reached at mark.sanders@r3ssg.com or 800-416-2040.

**DIXON SMITH**
Senior Advisor
Deloitte

Dixon Smith transitioned from the Navy in June 2019 following 37 years’ service culminating with duties as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics. There he was the Navy’s senior executive accountable for the nation’s strategic sealift program and the Navy’s environmental programs, as well as resource sponsor for operational logistics, supply chain support and shore readiness. At Deloitte, Smith has served as a critical advisor across major pursuits, projects and geographies. Prior to joining Deloitte, he served as Executive Vice President, R.E. State Engineering, Inc., an 83 year old family-owned small business in San Diego concentrating on marine and heavy construction, environmental restoration and dredging. Smith currently serves on various local San Diego nonprofit boards including Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Ryan Family YMCA and USO San Diego, as well as multiple priority matters at once has earned the enduring trust and confidence of his clients.

**SEAN SOUTHARD**
Founding partner
Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3)

Sean Southard is a founding partner of Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson LLP (CGS3), a commercial real estate law firm established in 2013. After graduating from the University of San Diego with a B.A. in International Relations, he was commissioned by the United States Navy, serving tours in Iraq and Somalia. He was awarded his J.D. by Loyola Law School in Los Angeles in 1997. A seasoned leasing specialist whose ability to forge strong relationships throughout the real estate industry is matched only by his ability to process and apply market data about deal structures and terms to get the best result possible for his clients; he is a master of high-velocity deals. His ability to take personal ownership of projects and handle multiple priority matters at once has earned the enduring trust and confidence of his clients.

**RONALD STARK, MBA, LAADC-CA**
Program Manager
Mental Health Systems dba TURN Behavioral Health Services

Ronald J. Stark, MBA, is a U.S. Navy veteran and program manager with TURN Behavioral Health Services (BHS) North Inland Substance Use Prevention. He is a submarine veteran who served in the Vietnam Era, Cold War Era, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Christian Heritage College, an MBA from the University of Redlands, and is a California Licensed Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor. He has served veterans and their families for over 27 years at Vietnam Veterans of San Diego and Mental Health Systems dba TURN BHS. He is president of San Diego Veterans Coalition Board of Directors and co-chair of San Diego One VA Community Advocacy Board. Stark is the business services “go-to guy” in TURN BHS in San Diego, and nationally for veteran-related and other projects from concept, implementation and operation. He can be reached at rstark@turnbhs.org or 619-977-9515.

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**Gig Talent™**

Gig Talent congratulates Michael Crockett for being named a Top Influential Veteran Business Leader! Thank you for being such an integral part of the Gig Talent team and for being an inspiration to all Veterans and business leaders who want to make a difference.

**SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL HONORS**

**BOB WHISLER**
Vice Chairman, Kyocera International, Inc.

**SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL**

**TOP 50 INFLUENTIAL VETERAN BUSINESS LEADERS**

**HONOREE**

**KYOCERA**

Website: www.gogigtalent.com
Phone: (800) 981-4809
Email: info@gogigtalent.com
Hunger. Stewart holds an MPA from National University and a BA in Business Administration, Management and Communications from Excelsior College.

Peter Stolba brings over 16 years of experience in supply chain and operations management in the pharmaceutical and various other industries. Stolba joined TriLink from Pfizer working in the Clinical Strategy and Supply Management organization with experience in design of preclinical through commercial supply strategies. Prior to Pfizer, he worked as Director of Supply Chain at Halo Pharmaceutical; a full-service FDA, BLA and DEA compliant CDMO specializing in oral dosage, sterile ointments, and API manufacturing. Stolba is a U.S. Navy veteran who served on the destroyer USS Stout based in Norfolk, Virginia. He holds a bachelor’s degree in logistics management from American Military University and an MBA with a supply chain specialization from National University. He also has a certification in financial management from Cornell University and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. He can be reached at pstolba@trilinkbiotech.com.

Maria Stout is a leading intellectual property lawyer, partner at Knobbe Martens, professor of law at the University of San Diego School of Law and a former Naval Officer and mechanical engineer. She has cultivated a well-earned reputation as a trusted advisor for clients seeking to safeguard and monetize their valuable and innovative IP assets, particularly patents. Stout works with clients ranging from small, fast-growth companies to international corporations. Her years as a Navy Surface Warfare Officer gave her specialized training and hands-on experience working with teams as both a leader and service provider to get the mission accomplished. Patient, loyal and personally accountable, Stout's ability to remain calm in stressful situations and her fearless approach to problem-solving has informed her work managing the extensive IP portfolios of her clients, while delivering the extraordinary work product and immediate service they require. She can be reached at maria.stout@knobbe.com or 858-707-4192.

Liza Strom is an Executive Vice President & Principal at Strom Commercial Real Estate. She is a tenant representation broker with the firm, providing workplace strategy for new and existing clients. She was a Senior Leasing Director with Irvine Company for 14 years through 2019, responsible for leasing the company’s 10 million square foot San Diego CRE portfolio. Strom served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at L.A. Air Force Base, and led program integration for the Delta II and Titan IV unmanned rockets. In this role, she directed contract administration services on behalf of the USAF and NASA in excess of $2.7 billion and led a 20-person multifunctional team of military, DOD civilians and private sector professionals. Strom holds a B.S. in electrical engineering from Duke University and an MBA from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio. She can be reached at liza@stromcommercial.com or 619-243-1244.

Congratulations to Peter Stolba!

TOP 50 INFLUENTIAL VETERAN BUSINESS LEADERS AWARDS 2022 HONOREE

Over the course of Peter’s career, he has built on the foundation of his military experience. Peter leveraged the skills he gained in the U.S. Navy to develop an operations career, holding leadership positions in various industries. Peter contributes his success and career growth to several mentors, his family, and the qualities instilled in him from the military, including leadership, preparation, and accountability. We are proud to have Peter as part of the Maravi team!
Thomas Sudberry, Founder and Chairman of Sudberry Properties Inc., served for five years as a Naval Aviator with two Vietnam combat cruises aboard the USS Midway Museum, the Lincoln Club of San Diego and more. Today he develops and manages commercial properties in Southern California, most notably in San Diego. Specializing in urban retail, community and town center development, with an emphasis on mixed use and master-planned communities, his company has developed approximate 10 million square feet of property, with a combined market value of almost $2 billion. His most remarkable accomplishment is the award-winning, 230-acre master-planned community of Civita in Mission Valley, honored as Best Urban Master-Planned Community of the Year. Sudberry is an influential community leader and philanthropist, serving on many Boards of Directors such as San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego River Park Foundation, Impact Urban America, Father Joe’s Villages, the USS Midway Museum, the Lincoln Club of San Diego and more.

Michael Taylor is an archaeologist and President of NBW Environmental Services, LLC., a cultural resource management firm specializing in an array of archaeological services. He is a filmmaker and President of NBW Imaging, a cinematic film production company, specializing in corporate videos and aerial cinematography. He has written, directed and produced short films and various other film productions. Taylor is an infantry veteran who spent 13½ years in the United States Marine Corps. He is an alumnus of San Diego City College with an associate’s degree in Anthropology and a certificate in Archaeology. He transferred to Columbia University in New York where he graduated with a degree in Anthropological Archaeology. He has provided two $500 scholarships to City College archaeology students each year for the past six years. He serves on the Board of Directors for The Old Globe Theatre.

Tony Teravainen is a vocal advocate for the public support of our military community. He founded and serves as CEO of Support The Enlisted Project (STEP), a nonprofit that serves young military families in financial crisis. Teravainen grew up in a military family and served as a U.S. Navy submariner, so he knows firsthand the hardships young military families endure. He is active in several veterans and civic groups and is an Honorary San Diego Deputy Sherriff, a TedX speaker and a recipient of numerous awards. Teravainen holds undergraduate degrees in business management and nuclear engineering, a master’s degree in executive leadership from the University of San Diego, and an AB in Public Policy at Liberty University. He holds licenses in Six Sigma as well as Project Management and Change Management and holds one U.S. patent. He can be reached at tonyteravainen@teamstepusa.org or 760-805-2670.

Chief Estimator Frank Vega is a valued employee-owner at Sundt Construction. He is a talented estimator with a great deal of experience in the construction industry. Prior to working in construction, Vega served for nine years as a U.S. Navy Seabees builder. Vega is the recipient of two Navy Achievement Medals, and while serving he constructed a naval hospital, went on a humanitarian mission to re-model a very old hospital in a tight 30-day window, helped build a childcare facility and supported rebuilding after several destructive hurricanes in Puerto Rico. He received a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from Coleman University, studying on the GI Bill. He is bilingual, speaking English and Spanish. Whenever Sundt assists veterans through the Sundt Foundation, Vega is first in line to volunteer. He is proud to continue to develop, learn and refine his skills.

Evvan Wahl is a seasoned U.S. Marine Corps veteran and life science professional with more than seven years of experience in the pharmaceutical and bio-tech sector. Recognized for demonstrating an aptitude for leading project management teams, as well as for creating robust processes to aid with current R&D operations and site strategies, he has a history of contributing directly to company growth and expansion throughout his career. Professional focal points include project management, business strategy, Lean Six Sigma, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) knowledge, training and client relations/customer excellence. Delivering results in these areas of expertise requires utilization of effective communication skills, business acumen, operations analysis, project management and resource management to support efficiency and maximize returns. He graduated with a BS in Cognitive Science/Psychology from Carnegie Mellon University, and an MS in Executive Leadership from University of San Diego. He can be reached at evvan.wahl@catalent.com.