

## SFTT Board of Trustees

### **Eilhys England Hackworth, Chair**

Until his death in 2005, Eilhys England Hackworth was wife, partner, co-author and muse to the late Colonel David H. Hackworth— our country's most valor-decorated soldier since the Civil War. Ms. England Hackworth maintains her deathbed promise to chair Stand For The Troops (SFTT), the 501(c)(3) educational foundation the couple founded and dedicated to safeguarding the physical, mental and emotional well-being of America's frontline serving and returning troops, by overseeing SFTT's activities and keeping a current focus.

So committed was England Hackworth to her late husband and his vision, she walked away from a high profile career as a Mad woman running a top-50 marketing and PR firm on Madison Avenue to more fully support Hackworth on the issues of accountability and reform in the United States military, working with him for almost 20 years to ensure that America's warriors always receive the right stuff.

Recently, with at least 35% of Soldiers and Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan affected by combat-related PTS and a shocking 22 Vets committing suicide every day, England Hackworth and SFTT president, Maj. Gen John Batiste have established a Rescue Coalition to raise awareness of and destigmatize PTS and identify, develop and support smarter more effective treatments for both PTS and TBI. The goal: to help our most at-risk Vets get the timely treatment they need to survive and transition back to our American way of life.

### **Roger Charles, Vice Chair & Secretary**

A career Marine Corps officer from 1967 to 1990, Roger Charles has enjoyed a second career as an award-winning investigative journalist. He was a member in 2004 of the 60 Minutes II production team that earned a Peabody Award for the segment "Abuse at Abu Ghraib," which Hackworth played a major role in uncovering. For TV, Charles also served as a consulting investigative reporter for 20/20 (a special project on the Oklahoma City bombing), *ABC World News Tonight*, *Nightline*, *Frontline*, *Prime Time Live*, BBC News, and CNN, among others.

Charles was awarded a Medal for Excellence in Investigative Reporting for his 1992 *Newsweek* cover story, "Sea of Lies," was an Emmy finalist for best investigative piece for the *Nightlight Special* "The USS Vincennes: Public War, Secret War" in 1992 and has advised on stories for print outlets including: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The New Yorker*. He has been published in *Newsweek*, *Insight*, *The Washington Times*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Soldier of Fortune*, *Proceedings of the U.S. Naval Institute*, and the *Marine Corps Gazette*, where he served as an editorial board member from 1987-1989. In 1996, Charles broke the story of the fraudulent use of combat insignia by Admiral Jeremy Michael Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations.

"I saw while I was on active duty that many of the national media that cover defense issues are shockingly ill-informed" says Charles. "This just destroys any credibility for any military audience."

In 1998, Soldiers For The Truth Foundation, the non-profit, non-partisan, apolitical, educational foundation whose purpose is meaningful reform of the U.S. defense establishment, was formed as the pre-cursor to Stand for The Troops, with Charles serving as the editor-in-chief of SFTT's newsletter, *Voice of the Grunt*. Charles remained active on the non-profit's Board of Trustees until December 2004, when England and an ailing Hackworth asked him to assume the foundation presidency and Charles now fills the role of Vice Chair, "The foundation was created around three issues: leadership, training, and equipment," says Charles. "Think of a stool with three legs. Remove any one of those legs and the stool falls apart."

### **Major General John Batiste, US Army (Retired), President**

A commissioned infantry officer from West Point John Batiste served the US Army for over 31 years. A two-time combat veteran his combat and peace enforcement experience includes deployments to Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm and Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1995 to 1996 and, years later, Kuwait.

While working for the Deputy Secretary of Defense, he was involved in the early planning stages of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. He was promoted to major general in 2002 and was deployed to Iraq from February 2004 to March 2005.

After retiring from the Army as a major general in November, 2005, Batiste entered into the private sector. He initially served as president and CEO of [Klein Steel](#), in Rochester, NY, and in December 2013 became President and CEO of [Buffalo Armory LLC](#) in Buffalo, NY. As of June 2011, he has been a member of the board of advisors of the [Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School](#), a board and executive committee member of the [Metals Service Center Institute](#), a board member of the Rochester-based [Veterans Outreach Center](#) and the president of the [Rochester Regional Veterans Business Council](#). After a number of years on the SFTT Advisory Board, Batiste became the Foundation's President in early 2012.

### **Edmund Duffy, Esq., Vice President**

A graduate of [Boston College](#) and [Columbia University Law School](#) Mr. Duffy Of Counsel , [Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP](#)., has broad experience in all aspects of corporate law, including acquisition and joint venture transactions, and debt and equity financings in the private and public markets. Mr. Duffy has focused on international transactions particularly in Asia.

Over the years, Mr. Duffy has been a constant benefactor of STAND FOR THE TROOPS. His concern for American's frontline troops and commitment to SFTT and the Rescue Coalition Programs has compelled him to first serve on the SFTT's Advisory Board and in 2012 to his present position as member of The Board of Directors.

Other philanthropic work focused on enhancing educational opportunities for inner city children from Pre-k to graduate school. As a trustee of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, he has supported grants to Student Sponsor Partners, [Boston College School of Education](#) and The Mount. Since 2010, he has chaired the board of [St. Aloysius School](#), a Pre-k through 8th grade Jesuit-sponsored school in Central Harlem.

### **Bob Evans, Treasurer**

Bob Evans served with the 229th Aviation Battalion (First Cavalry Division) in the Republic of Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. He received a commission and extended in Vietnam as the battalion aviation safety officer. He served as division artillery aviation officer, artillery battery executive officer and troop commander at Fort Hood, Texas before separating from the service in 1971.

He spent 25 years in the civilian nuclear power industry in Arkansas, Georgia and at the [Nuclear Energy Institute](#) in Washington, D.C. In the nuclear industry, he began as a training manager, with responsibilities continuing in the areas of operations, maintenance and support services, and industry and government relations.

Evans is presently a National market manager for the [3M Company](#) in Washington, D.C., working with legislators and government agencies in the areas of homeland security, disaster relief, incident response, and energy conservation.

He has been a SFTT Board Member since 2007.