

JON D. (JD) WALKER

A life and a career focused in the service of others, Jon "JD" Walker, will become the second President of the Keystone Elk Country Alliance (KECA) in July of 2023. JD was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania and graduated from Marion Center Area High School. He received his BS Degree in Organizational Leadership from the Colorado State University and is currently pursuing his MBA from the Pennsylvania State University.

As a KECA Evergreen Chapter volunteer, JD comes to the Alliance familiar with the mission priorities, focus and the outstanding work of our organization. He joins KECA following his extensive military service and his service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Game Warden and Deputy Game Warden. JD graduated from the Ross Leffler School of Conservation in 2022, after receiving the "Torch Award" by his peers for his outstanding leadership qualities. JD added to his extensive military leadership and game management experience by serving as a floor manager for Westinghouse Specialty Metals prior to joining as President of the Keystone Elk Country Alliance.

KECA's Board of Directors, CEO and volunteers are honored to have a leader who possesses a personal constitution focused on "service". JD served our great country for more than 22 years in the United States Army. He entered the Army in July of 1996 as a Cargo Specialist and later retired as a Civil Affairs Noncommissioned Officer with the 10th Special Forces Group. He completed **six combat deployments** to multiple countries in support of the War on Terror, including: Operation Iraqi Freedom, Afghan Freedom, New Dawn, and Inherent Resolve.

Mr. Walker's military assignments were at Fort Bragg, North Carolina (January 1997-November 2001); Toledo Recruiting Company, Toledo, Ohio (November 2001-February 2005); Fort Lewis, Washington (April 2005-July 2007); Fort Bragg, North Carolina 528th Special Operations Sustainment Brigade (A), (August 2007-November 2008); 96th Civil Affairs BN (A) (November 2008-May 2012); 3rd Battalion John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (May 2013-July 2015); and 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (July 2015-Retirement October 2018).

Mr. Walker has attended numerous schools with a focus on "leadership." He attended the U.S. Army Airborne School, Air Assault School, Warrior Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course (Commandants list), U.S. Army Jumpmaster School, U.S. Army Recruiting School (Honor Graduate), Battle Staff Course, Civil Affairs Course (Commandants list), 18C Special Forces Engineer Course, Intermediate Search/Tactical Site Exploitation Course, Principles of Strategic Communications Course, Senior Leaders Course, Multiple Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) High Risk Courses, Advanced Negotiations and Mediations Course, Unconventional Warfare Course, Special Forces Network Development Course, and many others.

JD has been honored with numerous meritorious service recognitions, including the Bronze Star Medal (third award), Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Army Commendation Medal (fifth award), the Army Achievement Medal (ninth award), Navy Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (seventh award), Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Medal, National Defense Medal, NATO Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Presidential Unit Commendation, and the Presidential Unit Award for Valor. His decorations include Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Driver Badge (wheel), Gold Recruiter Badge with three Star Sapphires, and was awarded the French, Chilean, German, Australian and Irish Parachutists Badges. Mr. Walker is also a member of the Army's prestigious leadership clubs, Sergeant Audie Murphy, and Sergeant Morales.

Upon his military retirement in October 2018, Mr. Walker became a Military Science Instructor at the Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Saint Francis University, Mount Aloysius College, the Washington and Jefferson College, and the University of Pittsburgh. Additionally, JD served as the Veteran

Support Specialist for Saint Francis University until his selection to the prestigious Ross Leffler School of Conservation. He was then assigned to Indiana County where he served as the State Game Warden until March 2023.

JD is married to his wife Jessica; they have two daughters Victoria (17) and Brinley (13). The Walkers are outdoor enthusiasts and are enormously excited to join our KECA family and to lead the Alliance long into the future.