



DEPUTY GRAND MARSHAL JONATHAN ECKSTEIN

Growing up in a military family, I never stayed in one location for longer than four years. Hence, upon graduation from medical school, I decided on a whim to give New York a try as my parents had grown up there. I started my graduate medical education career in the Rockaways at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in 1998. Shortly thereafter, I was called to active duty military service with the Second Marine Division and spent a little over four years on active duty before my return to New York. One surprise was my last minute deployment with First battalion Tenth Marines in support of Task Force Tarawa to Iraq in 2003. I prepared for medical evacuations, chemical and biological response, and vectors prevalent to the region. I returned to the Rockaways in 2003 following my completion of active military service and returned to a Family Medicine residency at Peninsula Hospital Center.

Since that time, I have moved into a medical education role as the Family Medicine Residency Director at St. John's Episcopal Hospital where I oversee 34 doctors in training providing care for our community. I also practice in the Emergency Department to maintain my skills in urgent and critical care and serve as the medical director for Lawrence Cedarhurst Fire Department. I spend a great deal of time educating other veterans and speaking as a member of the American Legion, VFW and Marine Corps League regarding general health concerns and assisting them in obtaining veteran's benefits.

I first met my wife Donna at St. John's Episcopal Hospital during my internship year in 1998. Thankfully, she waited for me to complete my military service and return to New York. We now have 2 beautiful boys, Matthew and Jacob. My wife grew up in the Rockaways with deep seated local roots, her father Patrick Foy being one of 7 and her mother Theresa being one of 8. Her parents have since retired and serve a new role helping out with the grandchildren.

