

COLONEL STEVE HUNTE



Before Steven Hunte was a Soldier, he was a wrestler. He grew up with his Hall of Fame father Ken Hunte in the Mephram High School wrestling room. He then wrestled at cross town rival Bellmore JFK High School. Steve won 3 Nassau County Championships and 2 New York State Championships. He had a high school record of 101 wins, with 61 pins, 4 losses, and 1 tie, winning 17 championships, 6 Outstanding Wrestler Awards, and the Nassau County Outstanding Wrestler award in 1973. He won 2 NY State (USWF) freestyle championships.

Wrestling at the University of Iowa on 4 Big Ten, 4 Midland, and 3 NCAA Championship teams, Steve won 100 matches for the Hawkeyes. He won 2 Big Ten Wrestling Championships matching the 2 EIWA titles won by his Dad at Syracuse U. Steve was nationally ranked #1 his junior and senior years and victorious in the coveted 1977 East vs West All-Star Dual Meet.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in 1978, Steve completed his Army Airborne Training and was commissioned as an Army officer in 1979 before completing his Physical Therapy degree at the University of Iowa in 1980. As the Assistant Wrestling

Coach at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Army team had a record of 86 wins, 21 losses, and 2 ties. Wrestling on the All-Army Team, Steve won the 1983 Senior National SAMBO Championship.

From 1985-1988, he served as a physical therapist at Brooke Army Medical Center then led and managed Army Physical Therapy Clinics at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Stewart, and 121st General Hospital in Korea. From 1998 until 2002, he was Chief of the busiest Army PT Clinic and Assistant Chief, Department of Orthopedic & Rehabilitation at Fort Bragg, where he was the Delta Force physical therapist.

LTC Steven Hunte's leadership qualities led to his selection as the first physical therapist to command the largest outlying healthcare clinic in Bavaria, Germany in 2002.

In June 2005, Colonel Steven Hunte took command of McDonald Army Community Hospital leading all health-care operations, Soldier Medical Readiness, health promotion, and provision of care to over 60,000 beneficiaries in military communities.

Steve received his first Legion of Merit and Major General Eric Schoomaker would write: "Steve Hunte is a top 5% officer and one of the best, most committed, and most productive Medical Activity and Health Center Commanders I have ever known."

In 2007, Colonel Hunte was hand selected by the Army Surgeon General to be the first Installation Management Command Surgeon at the Pentagon, coordinating all healthcare programs for wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers and their families on all Army installations and Joint Bases, worldwide.

After serving 32 years, Colonel Steve Hunte retired with 2 Legion of Merit Medals, 6 Meritorious Service Medals, 2 Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, Army Air Assault Badge, Army Parachutist Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge. He has been honored with the Order of Military Medical Merit and Army Medical Department "A" Proficiency Designation.

A great wrestler, Steve Hunte is truly an OUTSTANDING AMERICAN! Please join me in welcoming him into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.