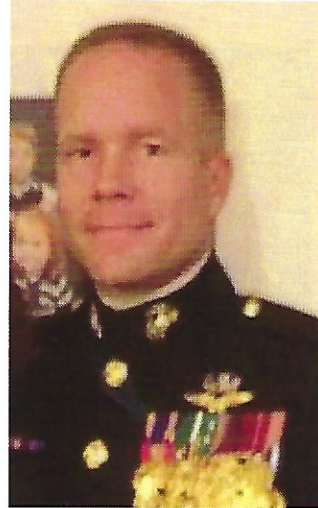
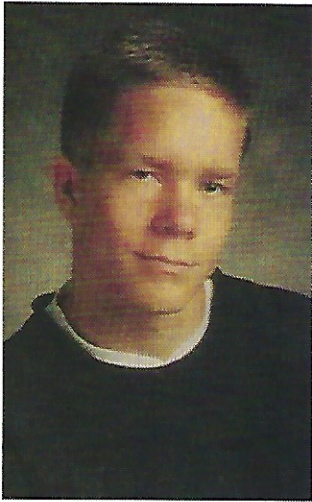


Distinguished Alumni Awards 2017 Durand Area Schools



Mike Watkins - Class of 1995



Mike Watkins has been selected for the Durand Distinguished Alumni Award for his dedicated military service.

- Enlisted USMC in 1995. Promoted Lance Corporal 1995, Corporal 1996 and Staff Sergeant 2002
- Served as IMEF Special Operations training instructor, Camp Pendleton
- Earned a Bachelor's Degree in History, Summa Cum Laude, 2005 from Eastern Michigan and a Master's Degree in Leadership in 2015 from Marshall University
- Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 2005 and completed Naval Flight Officer training and was designated Naval Flight Officer in 2007
- As Captain, served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan supporting both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom
- Recipient of: 10 Strike Flight Awards, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one Gold Star, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three Gold Stars
- Recognized as 'Distinguished Graduate' in: Corporals Course, Sergeants Course, Assault Climbers Course, Officer Candidate School, Recruiters School, Basic Flight School, Intermediate Flight School
- Serves post-military as the Region V Administrator for Team Rubicon, a veteran led disaster response organization
- Cites his greatest accomplishment as his 20 year marriage to Stacey (Perrin) and their 4 children: Trevor, Sarra, Carter, and Savanna