



JOHN S. PETRONE PRESIDENT / CEO

As President of SouthWood Corporation, John Petrone oversees all aspects of the business, serving more than 200 loyal clients across the globe and managing over fifty full-time employees. John is a decorated military veteran and a leader who effectively empowers his team to reach the highest levels of quality in product and in service, instilling a client-first mentality across all aspects of SouthWood operations. As a result, SouthWood was awarded "Top Workplace" in 2017 by The Charlotte Observer, and has won numerous awards for their signage and sign systems.

John's expertise in manufacturing and operations was established while working for Instrument Transformer Equipment Corporation (ITEC), and at Charlotte Pipe and Foundry. Prior to his work at ITEC, John coordinated and oversaw the administrative operations for John Fennebresque, Chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, and as Vice Chairman for the global law firm, McGuireWoods, LLP. He developed policy recommendations for both the university and the firm, and executed strategies to strengthen ties between McGuireWoods and anchor clients.

Good companies always have skilled, decisive leaders behind them. But what it takes to make a business exceptional for both its employees and clients is a leader with followership. And that's precisely what John cultivated while serving as an Infantry Officer in the United States Marine Corps from 2010-2015. Leading the Combined Anti-Armor Team, he commanded a platoon of over 70 Marines, the largest and most independent in the Battalion, on an eight-month combat deployment to southern Afghanistan. John was responsible for the training, welfare and tactical employment of the platoon. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for meritorious achievements during Afghan deployment and the Combat Action Ribbon.

John, a Charlotte native and Eagle Scout, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated from Woodberry Forest School. He enjoys golf, hunting, fishing and traveling, and community stewardship through organizations including the Urban Land Institute of Charlotte and his board membership with TreesCharlotte.

John recently married Baxter Springs Close in June 2017.