

Giving Back, Never Giving Up:

A Message to Hinton

To many in Hinton, West Virginia, the story of U.S. Marine Sgt. Ramon Eugene “Mecot” Camara is woven into the very fabric of our community. Mecot was born December 28, 1960 in Nashville, Tennessee, to Dr. Prudencio B. Camara and Billie Jean Haskins Camara, but it was here in Hinton that he truly found his home and built a legacy that continues to inspire us all.

Many of you will remember Mecot as a boy who loved the outdoors. The Greenbrier River, the New River, and Bluestone Lake were more than just scenic landmarks—they were his playgrounds. Mecot spent countless hours fishing and rafting in these waters, forging a deep connection to the land and the people of Hinton. These rivers and lakes shaped his adventurous spirit and his love for our town.

After graduating from Hinton High School, Mecot answered the call to serve his country, joining the United States Marine Corps in January 1981. His dedication and leadership quickly earned him the rank of Sergeant. Though his life was tragically cut short in the Beirut Bombing on October 23, 1983, his legacy lives on in Hinton, where his heart and soul rest on a mountaintop overlooking the town and the rivers he cherished.

Mecot’s commitment to giving back began right here. As a member of the Hinton High School Key Club, he worked alongside the local Kiwanis Club to make a difference in our schools and neighborhoods. Many of you may recall his enthusiasm for service projects, always eager to lend a hand and encourage others to do the same.

He was also a coach, someone who believed in the power of teamwork and the importance of supporting young people. From little league girls’ basketball to high school girls’ softball, Mecot poured his energy into helping our youth grow, learn, and succeed. His encouragement and leadership left a lasting impression on the athletes he mentored and the families he supported.

While attending Concord University, Mecot joined the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, where he continued his tradition of service by participating in philanthropic events. His commitment to helping others was unwavering, whether he was volunteering at college or right here in Hinton.

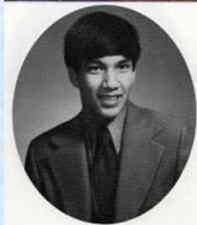
And who could forget his bright yellow Jeep, Rover? In the winter months, Mecot was a familiar sight, driving through town and pulling neighbors out of snowy ditches. He never hesitated to help, always ready with a smile and a helping hand.

Today, as we remember Sgt. Mecot Camara, let us honor his legacy by continuing the work he started. His life reminds us that giving back and never giving up are values that make Hinton strong. Whether through acts of service, coaching, or simply helping a neighbor, we can all carry forward Mecot's spirit and keep his memory alive in our community.

Let's celebrate Mecot not just as a hero, but as one of our own, a son of Hinton whose kindness and courage continue to inspire us all.

Sergeant Mecot Camara

We Salute you!



*Ramon Eugene "Mecot" Camara
Hinton High School
United States Marine Corps*