

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

# BATTLECRY

**JUNE 2024**

**PRIDE MONTH INTERVIEW**

**FAMILY IS MORE THAN BLOOD**

**MANDALOR'S TOP 10 LEADERS**

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# FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Vode,

Welcome to our annual Pride Month Issue, the issue where we try to increase understanding about each other and everyone who lives on this little blue planet of ours.

While putting this issue together, I've come to a greater understanding of what "family is more than blood" really means, and what it really means to me is that we're all in this together.

Not long ago I was at a soccer game (that would be futbol to all of you outside the US) and while the announcer was listing off the code of behavior for the spectators (soccer fans can be a passionate bunch) he ended with something that I'll never forget. He said "In the end, just be cool, and be cool to those around you."

So, just remember, we're all stuck on this little blue planet, we're all in this together, and just be cool, and be cool to those around you.

Mike "Diz Ge'tal" Porter  
Editor, BattleCry Magazine

# PRIDE MONTH

## INTERVIEW WITH KYR'YC & GREGOR'II

INTERVIEW BY: MIKE "DIZ GE'TAL" PORTER

June is Pride Month, and in honor of the month, I was fortunate enough to be able to "virtually" sit down with a pair of vode from Kyrimorut Clan who are also a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Kyr'yc Tuur has been an Official Member since 2019, and was brought into the MMCC because, as he said to me, "I've always been a big fan of costuming, so when I got into Star Wars I immediately began researching the legions/costuming groups. The Mercs stuck out to me because my Mando could be one of a kind and I had full creative control."

Kyr'yc Tuur's clan mate, Gregor'ii Cetar has been an Official Member for the last 3 years and says that they were brought into the "community (of the MMCC) through a shared love of creativity and community service."

I thank you both for your dedication to the mission of the MMCC and for sitting down with us.

**BATTLECRY:** What does the MMCC mean to you?

**KYR'YC TUUR:** This club has been a pillar of my life since I joined. Not only have I made incredible friendships and helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for charity, I've gained a global family of fellow Mandos.

**GREGOR'II CETAR:** Many children can be intimidated by Mandalorian armor. The smiles children, specifically girls, give me when I remove my helmet gives me pride. I want to provide visibility in every fraction of my life. I am grateful to our MMCC community for providing a platform as big as our collective imagination allowed.

**BATTLECRY:** How has the MMCC been a channel to explore your identity?

**KYR'YC TUUR:** I am a transgender man (female to male, for those unfamiliar with that term). When I joined the Mercs I was pre-surgery, pre-testosterone, and at a huge turning point in my life. Not only did my clan-mates embrace me and fully support me, they helped me make my first kit very masculine in fit. Wearing it felt like euphoria. I could be seen as my true gender before transition when I wore my kit.

**BATTLECRY:** Does your kit reflect or affirm your identity as a part of the LGBTQ+ community?

**KYR'YC TUUR:** Absolutely. Every kit I've made has been instrumental to my confidence in my trans identity. The Mercs has allowed me to explore my gender in ways I didn't think was possible before, and even though I am fully through my transition and pass fully as male now, wearing my kit still brings me that same masculine gender euphoria.

**GREGOR'II CETAR** (also in answer to the above question): As a transmasculine individual, portraying a male character in a traditionally male armor build is affirming and provides feelings of safety insofar as misgendering.

**BATTLECRY:** How receptive has the MMCC been to you and how does it make you feel at home?

**KYR'YC TUUR:** Overall, the Mercs have been an incredible supportive community. Many of my fellow Mando friends are queer and/or trans themselves! That said, there are always people in any large community who are less than supportive. I've been very lucky to encounter very few in the Mercs.

**GREGOR'II CETAR:** I have been accepted into my clan completely without reservation. I feel celebrated rather than accepted.

**BATTLECRY:** What advice would you give to prospective LGBTQ+ mandos?

**KYR'YC TUUR:** Embrace the community and be authentically yourself. Let your kit reflect your true self and use it to channel your pride, whatever that looks like for you. The more visible you are, the more welcome you will help others (who may not be as confident) feel.

**GREGOR'II CETAR:** Join today! You will have allies and mentorship. The positive impact of community ties cannot be overstated when Loneliness has become a world wide epidemic.

**BATTLECRY:** What advice would you give to those of us who consider ourselves allies to our LGBTQ+ vode and to the community in general?

**KYR'YC TUUR:** My advice is to continue to support your queer and trans clan-mates. The best thing you can do as an ally is to uplift and listen. It's also important to stand by your fellow queer mangos in the face of hatred or adversity. Be a pillar of support in your community.

**GREGOR'II CETAR:** Elevate voices of those of us who may not feel the safety to speak up. Call in ignorance in the rooms we are not in, be our advocates even when it goes unsung. We all benefit when we commit to elevate the safety of our most vulnerable community members.

**BATTLECRY:** What does "family is more than blood" mean to you?

**KYR'YC TUUR:** To me, "family is more than blood" means the people you surround yourself with and love are just as important as blood family. My clan mates are a family to me and I'm proud to be a part of Kyrimorut.

**GREGOR'II CETAR:** When family is restricted to blood relation, we ignore so many family structures. Mandalorians come from a place of found family. It is what is appealing about that aspect of the universe.

Huge thanks to Kyr'yc and Gregor'ii for taking the time to help us to gain a better understanding of Pride Month and the diversity within the MMCC.



# **FAMILY IS MORE THAN BLOOD**

## **PART 2: THE MEMBERS**

BY: KELSEY "VIRRA TENAU" BURCHAM

If you read the previous issue of BattleCry, then you'd know that the ties of family are significant to our members. The response we received was overwhelmingly positive, and we were very excited to show some of the aspects of the club. However, we wanted to take a step further and took it upon ourselves to ask several of our dedicated members how they felt the MMCC has been family to them. We asked each of them the same three questions, and recorded their responses. First, what do you think it means to have family be "more than blood"? Second, how have you seen this play out in the MMCC? Lastly, how would you show family is more than blood to a recruit?

First, we interviewed the new Regional Ver'sol of Alaska, Tiric Keel. He had this to say: "The first question is a two part answer for me. The first part is the members of the club who have become my family, [it] doesn't matter what our background is or where we're from; when we're in the armor we're family. When I've had hard times, people I've never met in person, but we have the T-visor in common have been there for a sound board and had my back, and I've always strived to be that person also. The other side of the answer is my personal family, my wife and I adopted our sons after they were our foster kids. I think to Kal Skirata and the Null ARC's and RC squads, adoption is the very basis of "Family is more than Blood." I have a very personal belief in this, whether it's a new friend from forums, a new friend from the other clubs, or a person at a con or a troop.

Again, I have been to two Celebrations and trooped in many places, I've always felt a camaraderie with all the members of the club, almost instantly, at Celebration Chicago, we had a first time meet up of most of the North Central Regions leadership, we had certainly talked over social media, the forums, and email, but many of us had never met in person, the minute we saw each other, we were instantly brothers and sisters, we were there for one goal.

For the new recruit, the best way is to take them under your wing, freely pass on everything I've learned over the years, [and] make sure they know that we are a family, we have each other's backs. Pass on that sense of belonging to something bigger than yourself, and lastly, having fun!

Family is more than blood, [it] is more than just words to me, it's a way of life, it's what I strive for in both my real world life, and my Mandalorian culture."

Next, we sent a comm to Kotep Laar of Blue Moon Clan, and they had this to say: "Family being more than blood is a simplified version of a far deeper concept that can only truly be experienced first hand. It could either be as an Unofficial Member/ Recruit or after you've been approved. In the [five] 5 years it took me to finally reach approval, I'd talk to the current members, always feeling shy as I saw them as strangers at first, however they'd always greet me with a smile and even gave me a fun little nickname (Stringbean). It truly made me feel that this wasn't just some club with monthly meetings, but a family where we love and try to support each other. I found members I saw as more like uncles, big sisters, and even one I nicknamed "Momma Mando." Yes, sometimes there's arguments, not everyone

is perfect, but what family is? A couple years after my approval I began meeting other clan members face-to-face and the immediate understanding and similarities between us only led to show even more aspects of them not being “other” clan members, but fellow Vod, siblings, family members just marching in another territory. The final realizations of the phrase “Family is More Than Blood” happened more recently. A Vod that I had yet to meet, but was well known to members of my clan, had lost their wife. I participated in my very first Death March this time, and I took it very seriously as I saw how it was affecting them. I mourned my fallen Vod, despite never meeting them. I also had the opportunity to participate in a couple International Meet-and-Greets where I met Vod from across the world and got to see the full stretch of some of the more senior members’ relationships with each other. It was inspirational to get out there and meet other members and get to know as many of them as I can. THAT is “Family is More Than Blood” to me. The feeling of unity despite distance or language difference. These are the feelings I hope to show to any new recruits, even if they aren’t in my Clan, that in the end, when the chips are down, we stand together, we march as one, we are the Mando Mercs!”

Lastly, we interviewed Obey Wann from Taakure Clan. He has this to say: “Many years ago, my wife and I went through some rough patches. It was our friends in the geek community – members of the Denver and Phoenix Fan Forces, local 501st and Rebel Legions – who were the only ones there for us. They were there for my wife and toddlers when I was deployed overseas. And some of them were integral parts of our lives when my son was born 20 years ago, and now they have seen him grow to become an Official Member (OM) himself!

Just recently, my family of five (three fully grown and working kids) had the rare opportunity to attend FANEXPO Denver together. Four of us now live in Indiana in Taakure Clan territory, but my eldest and her husband live in Denver, in Cerar Clan territory. We travelled a thousand miles each way to participate in this convention. We have attended since it started back in 2012, but haven’t had all five of us attend it together in 5 years. It was fantastic to meet up with my old Garrison, Base and Clan, and to have my whole family experience the con together with our old friends. It was like a family reunion, getting together with Star Wars friends who have been part of my children’s lives from the beginning.

I was also able to reunite with Clan/Garrison/Base friends I had met at previous conventions, and make friends with new members who joined since I was last in Cerar territory. We trooped together, laughed together, swapped stories about invasions, and got to know each other as people with common interests. We even held an impromptu meeting of the Rocky Mountain Fan Force at the con, because we had so many of the original members there.

Many of us who were part of this community in those early, early Fan Force days are now members of the official costume groups (some are members of MULTIPLE groups), and some aren’t members of any costume group at all. But we are bound by years, and even decades or shared friendship, activities, troops, parades, conventions, official and unofficial get-togethers. We’ve seen children born, raised, and get married. We have raised money for friends who fought cancer, and lost friends and loved ones along the way. We have laughed and grieved together through loss and Darth Real Life.

These friends are my family. My brothers and sisters in the MMCC, Rebel Legion, 501 st and the RMFF are family. To me, close friends are family that you choose. We may have vastly different opinions on politics, lifestyles, choices, etc..., but we choose to be united together through our love of Star Wars, community, charity, costuming, prop-building, and love of making people smile. In many ways, I am closer to my family in the Star Wars community than I am to my own blood relatives. And that’s not a bad thing. We need more community that looks beyond our differences these days and sees the good things we have in common.

Since my first Rebel Legion-approved costume in 2002, I have seen the growth of all of the costume fan groups. I officially joined the 501 st in 2007, and finally joined the MMCC in 2019. I've lost track of how many troops, conventions, parades and invasions I've done, but it's in the hundreds. I watched the Rebel Legion move beyond the "bathrobe Jedi" days. I watched as the 501 st had to incorporate new costumes like clones (and everything else that wasn't from the OT). And I've seen the MMCC grow from a handful of people using converted trash cans to a premiere, fully professional organization. Over the years, I've seen all of the good, the bad and the ugly that has transpired... but the community has ALWAYS gotten better over time.

Interestingly, in my own experience, it was the MMCC that helped bridge the gap between groups. In the (bad) old days, there was good guy/bad guy friction between members of the 501 st and RL who role played their characters, inside and outside of armor. But the MMCC was outside of that. The mercenary mentality made the MMCC a bridge between the Rebels and Imperials. Also, over time, more and more people became dual-members, or triple members of the clubs. The walls started coming down between the various groups. In fact, 2023 was a monumental breakthrough in Colorado because it was the first year that all of the Colorado-area Star Wars fan groups worked together to hold one single Star Wars experience at FANEXPO Denver, instead of having multiple separate booths. To the average con-goer, there was absolutely zero distinction between the various groups. Instead, it was one family. In the past, each group had separate, but equal space, plus come communal spaces, but nothing like this!

For many of us, this has been a long-term goal to get all of the costuming groups to see past club barriers, and to see all of us as fellow costumers, regardless of the kit they wear that day. I saw photos of this at a convention in Florida this year, then more in California. Those cons were so inspiring! This was my first personal experience with it where there was no distinction between groups at a major convention. I have to give special kudos to one Mando in Cerar Clan in particular: Rob Even. Rob (Bryn Cin'Prudii) is the Alor'ad of Cerar, and he relentlessly worked to get all of the "clubs to play nice together" and work together as one team, with one Star Wars con experience. As a result, it was by far the best, most immersive booth that the clubs have put together at a convention in Colorado. The booth was even visited at least twice by Emily Swallow, the Armorer from The Mandalorian and the Book of Boba Fett.



The MMCC is in an interesting place right now thanks to the two shows on Disney+. It has spread the Mando culture to people who might not have watched the Clone Wars, Rebels or read books and comics. The MMCC has more visibility than ever before, and I've seen leaders across the nation leverage that visibility to share the love of the Mando culture, costuming, prop making, and charitable volunteerism. It is leaders like Rob Even, Moby Mobeck (Tor Cin'Vhedin),

Brian Aubrey (Roe'gall Montar) and Sam Wybenga (Mas Cerar) who make the Mercs a family that is stronger than blood. They see beyond "what was" and are moving the needle towards "what it should be." It takes leadership and effort to get clubs to work together as equals. A great example was when the Mountain Garrison CO recently presented Mas Cerar with a Mountain Garrison Honorary Member plaque. It shows how by treating fellow costumers as family –regardless of club affiliation –makes a huge difference. We are one family, united by a common bond."

With rousing testimony from multiple different members in different Clans, it was obvious to us here at BattleCry that our earlier summation was correct: family really is more than blood. It's more than just a saying that looks cool or feels like something from the Star Wars universe. It is something that is actioned throughout all members, and something that we strive to show everyone that interacts with us. You are not alone. Aliit ori'shya ta'din; family is more than blood.



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# MANDALORIAN LORE

## TOP 10 MANDALORES

BY: ALEX "KATRA DROMAAR" MACIEL

Su cuy'gar! Welcome to the Lore Corner! For our inaugural section, we thought it would be nice to start with a simple top ten - namely, the ten greatest leaders of the Mandalorian people throughout history, from both Legends and Canon!

Ever since their very first leader Te Solus Mand'alor, who led them to the planet traditionally called Manda'yaim, the title has been a paradox, synonymous with authority over the famously independent culture. Whether for conquest, or for response in times of crisis, whenever one claims the title of "Lord Mandalore", you can always be assured whoever holds it is among the deadliest warriors in the galaxy.

### 10. ARTUS LOK

First seen in: The Old Republic: Galactic Timeline 4 (2009)

A ferocious warrior, perhaps most notable for averting a dark fate for his people. Originally a simple warrior, a young Artus took part in the previous Mandalore's Great Hunt - a challenge to find the greatest hunters in the galaxy. But Artus had motivations beside proving himself - he had correctly deduced the current leader, now forever known to history as Mandalore the Lesser, was in fact a puppet of the Sith, who had reached his status not by merit, but conspiring with them. Upon completing his trials, Artus challenged and defeated the Lesser, and took the title Mandalore the Vindicated. He slowly consolidated his power, maintaining a now terse alliance with the Sith Empire, no longer at their beck and call. He eventually fell in battle as a true Mando should, meeting his end in the Eternal Empire's campaign of conquest, fighting to his last against unending legions of the Zakuulan Skytrooper droids.

### 9. BO-KATAN KRYZE

First seen in: The Clone Wars: Season 4 Episode 14: A Friend in Need (2012)

A potentially controversial pick, who has made many mistakes in her past, but always rises again. Bo-Katan was born to the noble Clan Kryze, which fragmented in allegiances during the Great Clan Wars. She took a radical path, opposite her pacifist sister Satine, who had gained leadership of the peace-loving New Mandalorian faction. Feeling her sister had spat on their people's ancient traditions, Bo-Katan turned to the fanatical Death Watch, eventually leading their elite unit, the Nite Owls. After a complex plot to take the throne resulted in Darth Maul's takeover, she realized her errors, reluctantly allying with her sister, then the Jedi, to retake Mandalore, which turned out to be in vain, as the Imperial-aligned Clan Saxon took over. Once again taking part in insurrection, she gained possession of the Darksaber, leading a guerilla campaign to free her people, which once more was for naught, as the Empire decided to simply carpet-bomb the planet. The following years were spent in depression, until at last, working with Din Djarin, she managed to reunite scattered elements of their people, from her former forces, to the Children of the Watch, to the rugged survivors on the planet's surface, to launch one final assault against the Imperials occupying their world, liberating Mandalore once and for all.

## **8. SPAR**

First seen in: *Marvel Star Wars 68* (1982) (retcon)/*Geonosis and the Outer Rim Worlds* (2004)

A complicated man, whose history is mired in contradiction. Spar was, in fact, one of the earliest clones of Jango Fett ever made, an ARC Trooper designated Alpha-Ø2. Unbeknownst to the Kaminoans who created him, Spar had, in fact, inherited many of his “father’s” memories, wisely keeping it secret, knowing the fate that normally befell “defective” clones. Sneaking off Kamino with the help of one of the Mandalorian training sergeants, deserting before the Grand Army of the Republic was ever deployed, he made his way to Mandalorian space, working as a bounty hunter until the outbreak of the Clone Wars. Foreseeing the chaos that would befall a leaderless Mandalore, he claimed the title Mandalore the Resurrector, at the urging of Fenn Shysa, a clan chieftain, who maintained a disinformation campaign as to his identity - the son of Jango Fett? A local constable? None knew. Regardless, he formed an elite commando force called the Mandalorian Protectors.

## **7. MANDALORE THE ULTIMATE**

First seen in: *Tales of the Jedi: The Sith War 6* (1996)

His name lost to history, his titles eternal - Mandalore the Ultimate, the Great Shadow Father. Originally a nondescript warrior, after finding Mandalore the Indomitable’s mask after he fell in battle, the warrior wasted no time in building up his forces, adopting the tenets of the Neo-Crusader movement, transforming the Mandalorians from raiders to a organized military force. But his changes were not solely to the military, but to the culture itself. The last Taung to officially lead, after a prophetic vision, he instituted the “melting-pot” aspect of our traditions - that no matter the species, all who are worthy and choose to walk our ways may join us. With the counsel of his aide-de-camp, the genius strategist Cassus Fett, he launched the Mandalorian Wars, nearly bringing the Republic to its knees before the Jedi Knights Revan and Malak turned the tide, leaving the Mandalorians devastated at Malachor V. While he ultimately never succeeded in taking Coruscant, he is remembered for leading the Mandalorians to the greatest territorial extent ever seen. Finally, he was never seen without his mask, birthing a tradition for more fundamentalist sects later in history

## **6. CANDEROUS ORDO**

First seen in: *Knights of the Old Republic* (2003)

One of the first humans born among the Mandalorians, Canderous always strived for greatness. An accomplished commander, he led his troops to victory at the Battle of Althir, against enemy forces ten times their number. After the defeat at Malachor V, he, like many others, went into self-imposed exile, feeling lost in life until he joined forces with Revan in his quest to defeat Darth Malak. Remaining loyal to him even after discovering his identity as the “Butcher” of his people, his faith was rewarded when he was bestowed the title Mandalore the Resurrector. Embarking on a quest to reunite his people in the face of the coming Sith threat, he once again joined forces with a Jedi, Meetra Surik, to face the Sith Triumvirate. While he was ultimately unsuccessful in reuniting all the Mandalorians scattered since the war, he nonetheless is remembered for bringing his people back from the brink, and is still honored as the namesake for many later warriors.

## **5. BOBA FETT**

First seen in: The Empire Strikes Back (1980)

The best bounty hunter in the galaxy. A name feared from every lawless den in the Outer Rim, Boba Fett may be the most famous Mandalorian in history. “Born” a completely unmodified clone of Jango Fett, Boba had a lonely childhood on rainy Kamino. But at the outbreak of the Clone Wars, that turned out to be the least of his issues. Traumatized by witnessing his father’s death at the hands of Mace Windu, he chose to follow in his father’s footsteps, becoming an A-class bounty hunter before even finishing puberty. Everything changed on the fateful day that he was launched into the belly of the sarlacc by a malfunctioning jetpack, he endured excruciating torture in its gullet before he finally escaped, into a galaxy which thought him dead. Eventually returning to bounty hunting, he was sent after one of his few equals, Fenn Shysa. At his core an honorable man, Boba followed through with Fenn’s dying wish , to take his place as Mandalore, to follow in his father’s footsteps not as a hunter, but as a leader. With leadership skills gained after a stint as a Daimyo on Tatooine, he led his people through the tumult of the Yuuzhan Vong war, with the Battle of Mandalore becoming one of the few fronts at which the Vong ever pulled back. Ironically, for all his personal prowess in combat, his most notable contributions to history were economic - managing a boom in beskar mining, negotiating a treaty with the Verpine of Roche, and stabilizing Mandalore’s population by incentivizing their diaspora to return to the homeworld.

## **4. SHAE VIZLA**

First seen in: The Old Republic: Deceived (2009)

Yet another simple bounty hunter with leadership thrust upon them, rising to unmatched heights. For the longest time, Shae Vizla fought for nothing but credits and sating her pyromaniac tendencies, serving the Sith Empire for their most dangerous tasks, including the legendary Sacking of the Jedi Temple. With the mountains of credits she earned, she built a fortress on the planet Rishi, where she and her clan could test their mettle against the most dangerous beasts the galaxy had to offer, but once Zakuul invaded the known galaxy from the Unknown Regions, she joined the fray once more, watching as their leader was swarmed . Responsibility called, and she reluctantly ascended to become Mandalore the Avenger, aiding the Eternal Alliance in the defeat of Valkorion. Her contributions to the Mandalorian legacy lay in her steadfast dedication to maintaining the survival of her people, mainly in preventing an all-out civil war.

## **3. AGA AWAUD**

First seen in: The Essential Guide to Warfare (2012)

Aga Awaud was born at the tail-end of what, debatably, was history’s most chaotic period, the New Sith Wars, when the entire galaxy was ravaged by conflict, technological regression, and disease, Mandalorian Space being no exception. The soldier Aga Awaud, upon returning home, found his family and most of his clan dead from the Candorian Plague. Without a living culprit to seek vengeance on, he turned his attention to corsairs which had been preying upon Mandalorian starship caravans. Nauseated by how low his people had gotten, living in fear of mere pirates, he took the sobriquet Mandalore the Uniter, and instituted “The Return” and called for the dispersed Mando’ade to come home. He then annihilated the marauders, reinstated industry, and began a golden age. Mandalore had now once more become the heart of a regional power, absorbing more and more surrounding sectors into its sphere of influence, an Outer Rim rival to the much-diminished Republic. For this, he is one of the most celebrated Lord Mandalores in history, and his standardized Shocktrooper armor remains the basis for modern “standard” beskar’gam to this day.

Not to be confused with our (Mercs) own Mandalore the Uniter, Novall Talon!

## **2. JASTER MEREEL**

First seen in: Jango Fett: Open Seasons 1 (2002)

The father of modern Mandalorians, Jaster Mereel hailed from the colony world Concord Dawn. Originally a member of the Journeyman Protector lawmen, his devotion to the ideals of their code led to the killing a corrupt superior, which led to his exile. He chose to join the roving Mandalorian mercenary army, climbing up the ranks, all the while noting a disturbing lack of morality among some of the soldiers. This led to him claiming leadership, with his first act as Mandalore being the institution of the Supercommando Codex; a stringent guide built upon the ancient Canons of Honor, hoping to curtail the streak of brutishness he had noted in his troops. It only half-worked. Tor Vizsla led a splinter faction which came to call itself "The Death Watch," rebelled against the Canons of Honor. Mereel's loyalists, now under the name True Mandalorians, were now embroiled in a bloody civil war with their dishonorable former comrades. At Concord Dawn, with the help of a young boy who knew the terrain, they managed to eliminate much of their adversaries' leadership, and believed them to be disbanded. The boy, named Jango Fett, was formally adopted as a foundling by Mereel, who trained him for the next six years, turning him into a formidable warrior. While not the longest-reigning Mandalore, Mereel is most notable as a reformer, creating the modern ideals of Mandalorian honor, refusing to let his people fall to savagery when integrity was falling to its lowest.

## **1. FENN SHYSA**

First seen in: Marvel Star Wars 68 (1982)

The greatest leaders are often the most reluctant. At first the chief of a small clan with no aspirations of grandeur, in the days prior to the Clone Wars, he simply acted as a local constable, all the while noting the marginalization their planet suffered under the Republic. Everything changed when he met the renegade clone, Spar. Realizing the opportunity at hand, seeing Spar as a perfect head for their coalition, he began assembling forces from Mandalore's lawmen to form the Protector army. Swearing allegiance to Count Dooku, they rapidly became the most renowned force of the Separatists. But their fortune was not to last when Darth Sidious orchestrated an ambush at Norval II, leaving all but the three founders dead. With Spar renouncing his title, Shysa was finally convinced to take leadership himself. Shysa's worst fears came true once, as upon consolidating enough power in the Mandalore Sector and establishing a headquarters in the City of Bone, the Imperials began to strip his people of armor and enslaved them to obtain valuable beskar ore. In response, the outraged Shysa mobilized a new generation of Protectors, launching a protracted guerilla campaign lasting years. The conflict culminated when, with the aid of Princess Leia Organa of Alderaan, a final assault on the City of Bone was launched. With the tragic sacrifice of Tobbi Dala, the Imperial occupation was pushed back, but Shysa did not rest. Seizing the forward momentum, the Protector ranks swelled, and he led the charge, aiding the Rebel Alliance and its successors in hunting down remaining remnants of the Empire, most notably at the Battle of Mindor. But actions of the past would come back to haunt him when a vengeful Taun We, still bitter over his involvement in attacking Kamino four decades prior, put a bounty on him, one taken by Boba Fett himself. In a climactic showdown on Shogun, the fate of the Mandalorian people would be settled amidst the crystal landscape once more. In a series of events Fett has spoken little of, the tide turned in Shysa's favor, but the reigning Mandalore saved the bounty hunter's life, becoming fatally injured in the process. Shysa had two dying requests: that he put him out of his misery, and that he ascend to the position his father and grandfather both held, and he was true to his word. Shysa is uniquely venerated among Mandalores past, not only by his subjects but by outsiders. Following Mereel's code to the letter, Shysa encouraged his followers to only take "victimless mercenary jobs", such as protecting cargo shipments, but his greatest actions were the liberation of the enslaved, and the defense of civilian populations. It is for these he may be considered the most honorable Mandalorian of all time.

# THE BESKAR CHEF

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## NERF & MUSHROOM MINI-QUICHE

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 package of frozen Puff Pastry or Phyllo Dough
- 8 slices bacon
- 1/4 pound fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/3 cup green onion, chopped
- 1 2/3 cup swiss cheese, shredded
- 5 eggs
- 1 2/3 cups sour cream

### METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. On a lightly floured board, roll out pastry dough. Using a 3" cutter, cut out 42 circles; re-roll scraps as needed.
3. Fit circles into bottoms and slightly up sides of lightly greased 2 1/2" muffin pan. Meanwhile fry bacon until crisp; drain; crumble or chop.
4. Chop mushrooms, sauté in butter until limp and liquid evaporates. Combine bacon, mushrooms, green onion and cheese. Divide filling equally among the muffin cups.
5. In large bowl, beat together eggs, add sour cream and stir until smooth. Spoon about 1 tablespoon into each muffin cup. Bake until puffed and light brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool in pan 5 minutes; lift out.
6. Serve warm or let cool on wire racks. If made ahead, wrap cooled quiches airtight overnight. Reheat, uncovered, in 350-degree oven for about 10 minutes.

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