CAPT. SAX FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by

AMBER SAX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SASHA KHOUNANI, CFO

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CAPT. SAX FOUNDATION



"SINCE I HAVE STARTED FLIGHT INSTRUCTING, I HAVE FELT I HAVEN'T WORKED ONE DAY BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE I'M JUST DOING MY HOBBY. EACH DAY IS LIKE A NEW ADVENTURE, AND I GET EXCITED KNOWING I'M GOING TO HELP SOMEONE ACHIEVE THEIR DREAM TO FLY."

-JOHN J. SAX

EXCERPT FROM LETTER SENT TO JOHN'S FLIGHT STUDENTS IN 2016 ANNOUNCING HIS DEPARTURE FOR MARINE CORPS OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL ON A FLIGHT CONTRACT

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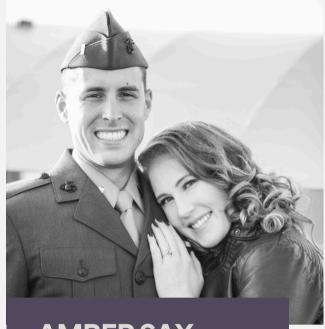
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LETTER FROM AMBER SAX

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the journey of this foundation—from its initial conception in 2022 to where we stand today—I am filled with profound gratitude for the support that brought us here. The Capt. Sax Foundation was born from a desire to honor the memory of Capt. John "Ball" Sax and the brave Marines lost aboard *Swift 1-1: Capt. Nicholas "Sloppy" Losapio, Cpl. Nathan Carlson, Cpl. Seth Rasmuson, and Lance Cpl. Evan Strickland.* In those first days of our grief, we were often asked, "What can we do to help?" Sitting in the Purple Foxes' command office following the squadron memorial, just steps from where John's desk once stood, one thought became persistently clear: "Help us honor him and keep his legacy alive."



AMBER SAX Surviving Spouse of

Capt. John J. Sax, USMC

John's passion for aviation began in childhood and only grew stronger with time and experience. His love for flight was infectious—an enthusiasm that left an indelible mark on all who knew him. There is something profoundly powerful and beautiful in talking to someone whose calling speaks directly to their soul. John possessed a pure love and passion for flying, a love so deep that it seemed destined from the beginning.

John understood firsthand the challenges many face in funding their aviation education. He witnessed his own students, filled with a deep love and passion for flight, held back by the weight of financial limitations—a barrier that stood in sharp contrast to their dedication. John, too, had encountered these obstacles, partially funding his own education through a combination of working as a student employee at Embry-Riddle, securing grants and scholarships, and taking out student loans to support his dream. He knew all too well that while passion can inspire, it's often financial support that allows dreams to truly take flight.

In a letter to his flight students before leaving his role as a CFI to attend Officer Candidate School with the Marines, John wrote, "Since I have started flight instructing, I have felt I haven't worked one day because it feels like I'm just doing my hobby. Each day is like a new adventure, and I get excited knowing I'm going to help someone achieve their dream to fly." We are profoundly grateful that John's influence within the aviation community endures, with his story continuing to be written through the lives of our recipients. In this way, we channel our love and grief into something that truly honors him. Guided by our mantra, "With all we do, we honor him," we are grateful for the support that has allowed us to carry his spirit forward. There won't ever be a day that those who knew John aren't impacted by his memory.

Thank you again for joining us on this journey and supporting our mission. With **\$25,500** awarded in 2023, and a goal to **match that in 2024,** we hope to continue John's legacy for generations. For questions, please contact me directly at info@captsaxfoundation.org.

Semper Fidelis & GIVE A SHIT,

Amber Jax

Amber Sax Surviving Spouse of Capt. John J. Sax, USMC Executive Director, Capt. Sax Foundation



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

To supporters and friends of the Capt. Sax Foundation,

I am deeply grateful for your steadfast commitment, which strengthens our efforts to preserve the legacy of Capt. John "Ball" Sax. John's passing profoundly affected us all, and his presence is deeply missed every day. Our friendship formed at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2011, where we pushed each other academically and in the gym. Some of my favorite conversations took place at the flight line, where we would discuss various aircraft, assessing their design and operational capabilities while watching airplanes do touch and goes at KPRC—a memory I will never forget. These experiences cemented a brotherhood fueled by our shared passion for aviation.

In my role as CFO, I am fully committed to honoring John's memory by upholding the values he cherished: service, integrity, and a passion for life. These values are more than guiding principles; they are the foundation of our organization and the essence of our mission, ensuring John's spirit continues to influence everything we do. Our board is composed of experienced aviators who deeply understand and share John's vision. Each scholarship we award targets individuals who reflect John's spirit and dedication to aviation; this perpetuates his legacy through the achievements of future aviators.

The Capt. Sax Foundation ignites the dreams of those sharing John's enthusiasm for flight. Being apart of this mission is not only an honor but also a significant responsibility that I cherish. **As we continue to expand our reach, the need for financial support is more crucial than ever.** Your continued contributions are vital to fueling these initiatives, allowing us to support and empower aviation dreams in John's honor.

Thank you for your continued faith in our cause. Together, we are committed to inspiring and uplifting the next generation of aviators, honoring the remarkable legacy John left behind.

With deep gratitude,

Jasha Chounani

Sasha Khounani CFO, Capt. Sax Foundation

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

ABOUT US

The Capt. Sax Foundation was established to honor the life of the late **Capt. John J. Sax (USMC)**. In his honor, our foundation is devoted to providing scholarships that bolster the aspirations of current and future aviators, as well as college students pursuing academic endeavors within the realm of aviation.

MISSION

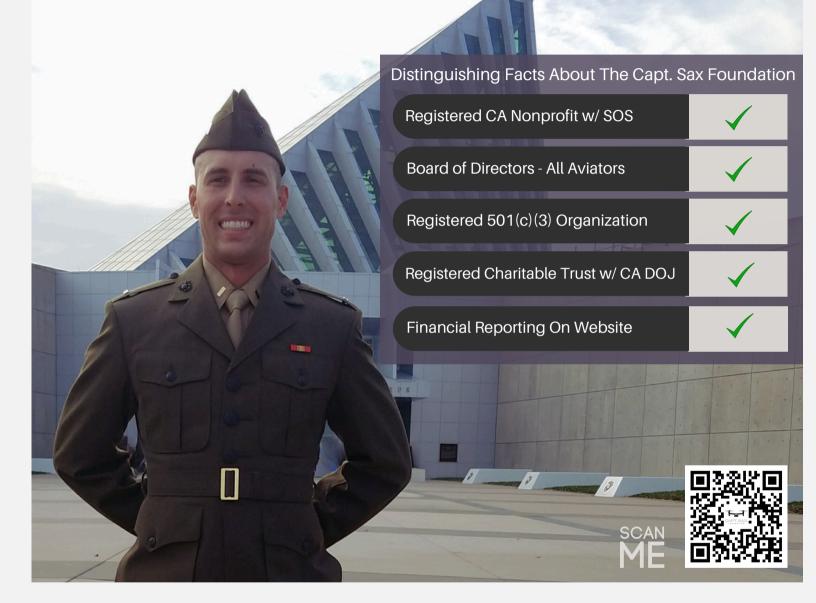
Our Mission is Simple: Honor Capt. John J. Sax

The Capt. Sax Foundation is dedicated to supporting those who share John's love and passion for aviation, ensuring his story is carried forward for generations to come. Guided by our mantra, **"With all we do, we honor him,"** we remain committed to keeping his spirit alive by honoring his call to serve, passion for mentorship, and love for flight.

Powered by volunteers, every dollar we collect goes directly to the Capt. Sax Scholarship Fund, helping us advance our mission to honor John's legacy and support the future of aviation.

OUR COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY





Let's dive into the purpose of this report - our commitment to transparency.

At our core, we are dedicated to upholding the values John embodied. As a fully volunteer-run organization, no one within our foundation receives a salary. In keeping with John's spirit of service, our executive director personally covers all foundation expenses, ensuring that every donor dollar goes directly toward flight scholarships, making a meaningful difference in someone's life. We are committed to transparency, honoring John's integrity by openly sharing how donor funds are used and outlining our future plans, so you can trust that your contributions truly advance our mission. For more information, please visit <u>https://captsaxfoundation.org/transparency/</u>

"WITH ALL WE DO, WE HONOR HIM"

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

On behalf of everyone serving the Capt. Sax Foundation, we want to thank all of you for your generous support. Our hope is to continue being worthy of your generosity in the years to come, knowing that it is earned through our dedication to integrity, transparency, and upholding our mission to honor Capt. John J. Sax by supporting the communities he was so incredibly proud to be a part of.

When we established this foundation, we placed great emphasis on ensuring our donors know that each dollar contributed is used exclusively for aviation scholarships to honor the memory and spirit of Capt. John Sax.

To achieve this, our foundation is powered entirely by volunteers. All expenses incurred by the foundation, with the exception of transaction fees, are personally covered by John's wife, unless a donor expressly designates their contribution for a specific expense.



This structural approach allows us to ensure that each dollar donated goes directly into the Capt. Sax Scholarship Fund, as does 100% of the purchase price of each item sold in our memorial shop. Currently, our funding comes solely from shop sales and direct donations, though we hope to host fundraising events in John's honor in future years.

Words could never fully convey the gratitude we feel for each donation, regardless of amount. The decision to award **\$25,500** for our 2023 award year was made exclusively by our voting board members, along with a commitment to **match that amount** in 2024. Some high-level figures are included below, and a **more detailed summary is provided on page 15 of this report**.

We welcome any questions directed to our CFO, Sasha Khounani, at finance@captsaxfoundation.org and thank you once again for your generous support.



Donations Received





Memorial Shop

\$3,883



Scholarships Awarded



Questions? Contact us at finance@captsaxfoundation.org

2023 SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

\$25,500 AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS IN HONOR OF CAPT. JOHN J. SAX

CAPT. SAX

LUKE AAGAARD \$5,000 CALEB PAYNE \$2,500 NICHOLAS DEVINE \$2,500 BRANDON GOODWIN \$1,500 BRIAN JENKINS \$1,500 CHRISTINA RAMIREZ \$1,500 DYLAN HENRY \$1,500 JOHN HARDEN \$1,500 JOHN MINNICH \$1,500 JOSHUA KIRKENDALL \$1,500 MATTHEW WALLACE \$1,500 OCSCAR ROJAS \$1,500 JULIAN THOMAS \$1,500 TRAVIS LANE \$500

RECIPIENT SUCCESS STORIES





LUKE AAGAARD - COMPLETED -PRIVATE PILOT CALEB PAYNE - COMPLETED -PRIVATE PILOT



CHRISTINA RAMIREZ - COMPLETED -PRIVATE PILOT

> BRIAN JENKINS - COMPLETED -MULTI-ENGINE

"WITH ALL WE DO, WE HONOR HIM"

RECIPIENT



CHRISTINA RAMIREZ PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE

Christina's journey to the skies has been nothing short of extraordinary. A survivor of domestic violence, she has faced the incredible challenge of providing for her children as a single parent and forging a new path for her family, including struggling with homelessness and relying on assistance as she relentlessly pursued a better life for her and her children.

Throughout it all, Christina's heart has continued to direct her to the skies with her unwavering passion for flight. Today she is married with three incredible children, a highly regarded member of the Ohio National Guard, a student pilot, and a United Airlines Flight Attendant. In addition to dedicating the many hours required for earning her Private Pilot's Certificate and effectively juggling her military service, career, and responsibilities of motherhood, Christina manages an Etsy shop to support her flight training endeavors.

Drawing from the incredible path she has traveled and her relentless pursuit to become a pilot, Christina aspires to become a beacon of inspiration for fellow female pilots, single mothers, domestic abuse survivors, and those overcoming life's challenges. She believes in leading by example, demonstrating that with unyielding perseverance, our dreams are attainable. Christina's ultimate goal is to be a source of encouragement for others who, like her, have faced difficult paths.

We sincerely thank her for sharing her story with our board and giving us permission to help uplift and inspire others by sharing it with you. We also hope that our supporters will visit her Etsy shop to help her support her remaining training - https://coachramirezprints.etsy.com

CALEB PAYNE PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE

Although Caleb's profound passion for aviation is evident, what truly caught the attention of our board is his incredible dedication to service. As a member of NJROTC, Caleb has served as the Mass Communications Officer, Cadet Commanding Officer, and, most recently, Teams Commander. Alongside these roles, he has accumulated over 200 hours of community service since his Freshman year of high school. Currently a senior, Caleb aspires to attend the Naval Academy with the ultimate goal of becoming a Naval Aviator.

Much like Capt. Sax, Caleb's journey into aviation began at a young age, attending Air Shows since the age of 8 years old. His first solo flight, a remarkable achievement, took place this past July. Caleb was selected to attend an 8-week intensive/accelerated private pilot program at DSU, and he envisions utilizing the Capt. Sax Scholarship to accrue his remaining flight hours required for his Private Pilot certificate.

Caleb, undoubtedly, is destined for the skies. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the honor of witnessing John's legacy carried forward by the newest generations of future Naval Aviators.



NICHOLAS DEVINE PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE

Nicholas has dedicated seven years to serving as an MV-22B Crew Chief. Amassing over 1300 hours of flight experience, he has earned the utmost respect from those he has served alongside due to his reputation for superior airmanship and commitment to upholding the highest traditions and standards of the Marine Corps. His commitment to excellence was clearly demonstrated in both his application and letters of recommendation, which highlighted his exceptional leadership qualities as a senior instructor and intricate knowledge of the MV-22B's technical complexities. Throughout his military career, he has earned every available qualification and designation for the MV-22B, including Weapons and Tactics Instructor, Crew Resource Management Instructor, and Naval Aviation Technical Operations Procedures and Safety Instructor.

It is evident that Nicholas Devine possesses the dedication and drive to accomplish any goal he sets his mind to, consistently striving for excellence in every action. While deployed with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, "The Flying Tigers," Nicholas received an Air Medal by demonstrating his proficiency during a rapidly compounding emergency encountered shortly after takeoff. Nicholas's ability to act quickly and appropriately when confronted with a dire situation wasn't only a demonstration of his extraordinary abilities but was also credited with saving the lives of all aboard and preventing a total loss of the aircraft.

Beyond his devotion as a Marine and an MV-22B Crew Chief, Nicholas possesses a clear passion for aviation and a desire to expand his skill set beyond his military role, contributing to the broader realm of aviation. In his own words, "Aviation is more than a profession: it is a community that epitomizes a culture of perpetual growth, advocating ongoing education and skill refinement."



DYLAN HENRY

PURSUING ASEL COMMERCIAL & INSTRUMENT ADD-ON

Currently serving as a CH-47F pilot with the US Army, Dylan's journey to aviation is nothing short of inspiring. He enlisted in the Army in 2013 as an infantryman, and served in 1st Ranger Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment, earning his tab and scroll. After three deployments supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, he was selected for the Army's Warrant Officer flight training program. He excelled in flight school, falling further in love with aviation and going on to pilot the CH-47F, the very aircraft that had carried him on countless missions with the 1st Ranger Battalion.

Dylan's peers hold him in high regard for his hard work, relentless pursuit of his dreams, and dedication to service. His story is an inspiration, and we look forward to seeing him continue forward with his pursuits.



BRIAN JENKINS

COMMERCIAL MULTI-ENGINE RATING

Brian discovered his love for flight while serving as a Marine Corps Combat Engineer. From conducting air raids on board some of the very aircraft that John was most passionate about, to having his last re-enlistment occur mid-air aboard a MV-22B Osprey, a moment that symbolized both his dedication to service and his undeniable connection to the skies.

Brian's aviation journey began with his first discovery flight at Fallbrook Flight Academy, which sparked a drive that led him to earn his Private Pilot Certificate, Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot Certificate, CFI I/II Certificates, and Commercial Multi-Engine Rating—all while serving as an active-duty Marine, a devoted husband, and a father. His journey has remarkable parallels to John's—sharing a passion for aviation, the Marine Corps, and the unique pride that comes with being a "girl dad."

His commitment is truly inspiring, completing the majority of these milestones within just two years by flying and studying nights and weekends. Within his final 3.5 years of active duty service, Brian accumulated over 1,100 hours of flight time, instructing at the very academy where his passion for flight first took off. His dedication to sharing that passion and mentoring his students is a testament to his character and drive.

Please join us in congratulating Brian and expressing our gratitude for his service as he embarks on a new chapter, pursuing aviation full-time through Baker Aviation's skillbridge program. We look forward to following his journey and celebrating his future milestones, and recommend our supporters follow along as well via <u>@tattedpilot</u> on Instagram.

JULIAN THOMAS ASPIRING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER PURSUING DEGREE IN AVIATION SCIENCE

Julian is currently pursuing a degree in Aviation Science at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. His fascination with aviation began during his elementary school years, growing up near military bases and airports where he frequently observed aircraft soaring overhead.

Throughout his college journey, Julian has secured three competitive internships within the realm of aviation: he served as an Operations Intern at Hartsfield Jackson International Airport and held positions with the FAA HQ at the Offices of Air Traffic Oversight and Accident Investigation and Prevention. Additionally, he is a Dwight D. Eisenhower fellow, a student assistant on campus, and an active member of the Divine Nine, NSBE, and NAACP. Beyond academics, Julian is an Eagle Scout and volunteers as a mentor for at-risk youth.

His ultimate goal is to become an Air Traffic Controller and recreational pilot in Houston, Texas. Julian finds inspiration in the idea of paving the way for others in their pursuits, aspiring to be a guiding light for those who follow in his footsteps.

Julian's journey serves as a beacon of inspiration, mirroring the qualities embodied by Capt. John J. Sax—a passion ignited in childhood and a desire to pay it forward to future generations. We hope that by sharing Julian's story, we can encourage future Air Traffic Controller hopefuls to apply for a Capt. Sax Scholarship. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to weave John's legacy into Julian's own story as he continues forward in pursuit of his dreams.



LUKE AAGAARD BS IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING & PRIVATE PILOT FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Much like Capt. John Sax, Luke's early experiences attending Air Shows and exploring Aviation Museums ignited an unwavering passion for flight. Currently pursuing an Aerospace Engineering Degree, Luke is concurrently working on his Private Pilot Certificate, aspiring to contribute to the design and construction of safer and more efficient aircraft.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Luke actively engages as a member of AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics). In the spring of 2022, he presented on "Disk Loading and High-Speed VTOL Designs" at the AIAA Region II student conference in Atlanta, GA. His presentation delved into the history of vertical lift aircraft and the contemporary developments in the Future Vertical Lift (FVL) program, spotlighting the Bell V-280 Valor and Sikorsky S-97 Raider.

An additional remarkable aspect of Luke's journey is his connection to the legacy of the Purple Foxes through his father. It's evident that the passion for flight instilled by his father also came with a profound understanding of unwavering dedication. During our call to Luke to notify him of his selection for a scholarship, we made sure to echo a heartfelt "Give A Shit."

990 FILING & CALLOUTS



Direct Donations	\$63,112
Operating Expenses (All Covered by John's wife)	\$9,594
Funding Raised via Memorial Shop	\$3,883
Scholarships Awarded	\$25,500
Salaries & Compensation	\$O



* 990 FORM CALLOUTS

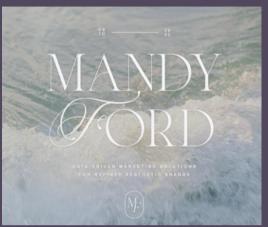
Key notes regarding our 990 report:

- <u>Scholarships issued totaled \$25,500</u>; however, scholarships paid in 2023 reflect \$7,000, as our fiscal year ended in December 2023, and some scholarship checks had not yet been deposited by flight schools or colleges by December 31.
- <u>All memorial shop items were purchased by John's wife</u> directly from the vendor using personal funds prior to being donated to the foundation. This ensures that 100% of the purchase price of each item goes directly into the Capt. Sax Scholarship Fund.
- <u>All operating expenses were covered by direct donations made by John's wife</u>. Aside from transaction fees, all funds collected through shop sales and the foundation's donation links went entirely to aviation scholarships for the current year or were allocated to cash reserves for future award years.
- <u>As reflected in our 990 report, none of our volunteers, board members, or staff</u> <u>receive compensation</u>. The foundation is fully volunteer-powered, ensuring that all funds go directly to scholarships and the only individuals that benefit from funds raised are our scholarship recipients.

CLICK HERE FOR 990 FILING

A FINAL NOTE OF THANKS





MANDY FORD

FOUNDATIONAL BRANDING & MEDIA SUPPORT

MANDY HELPED LAY THE GROUNDWORK, CREATING OUR BRANDING TEMPLATE AND COLOR SCHEME, AND TEACHING US TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO SHARE JOHN'S STORY AND PROMOTE OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. SHE GUIDED US UNTIL WE WERE READY TO SPREAD OUR WINGS AND MANAGE THESE EFFORTS ON OUR OWN. WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR HER LASTING IMPACT, GUIDANCE, AND SUPPORT. INSTAGRAM - <u>@MANDYFORD.CO</u>

KATHRYN BUTLER VISIONARY SUPPORT - INITIAL LAUNCH

KATHRYN'S TALENT HELPED BRING OUR FOUNDATION TO LIFE, WITH HER INVALUABLE GUIDING HAND TO HELP BRAINSTORM WAYS TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR MISSION AND CREATIVELY SHARE JOHN'S STORY, ENSURING OUR LAUNCH WAS STRONG AND IMPACTFUL. HER THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE HELPED SHAPE OUR PATH. INSTAGRAM - <u>@BYKATHRYNBUTLER</u>



CAPT. SAX FOUNDATION BOARD

JAMES HARKIN OLIVER WEBER DAVID NEWMAN SASHA KHOUNANI



ALEX GASTON TYLER WITHERS JOHN ROMBACH ALPHONZO ALLEN

OUR WORK IS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR INCREDIBLE BOARD MEMBERS, WHO DILIGENTLY REVIEW EACH APPLICATION AND THOUGHTFULLY DELIBERATE ON HOW BEST TO HONOR CAPT. SAX'S LEGACY BY MAXIMIZING THE IMPACT OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. THEIR DEDICATION, PASSION, AND COMMITMENT FORM THE BACKBONE OF OUR FOUNDATION, DRIVING OUR MISSION FORWARD FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. WE ARE PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL FOR EACH OF THEM.





OUR FRIENDS AT <u>@RAMPSUP.CO</u> & <u>@_SKIDROW__</u> HAVE SUPPORTED US FROM THE VERY START, RAISING AWARENESS FOR OUR CAUSE AND CREATING CAPT. SAX SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISERS THROUGH THEIR ARTWORK AND DESIGNS. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO FOLLOW THEIR PAGES TO SEE THE WORK THEY'RE DOING TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

CONTACT US

CONTACT US

Phone/ 916-836-4427

Email/

info@captsaxfoundation.org finance@captsaxfoundation.org

Website/ captsaxfoundation.org

Address/ 69 Lincoln Blvd Ste A #350 Lincoln, CA 95648

Instagram/ @captsaxfoundation

SEMPER FI & GIVE A SHIT!

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