MISSION UNITED is a critical program supporting US military veterans and their families on Long Island by helping them re-acclimate to civilian life. Key focus areas include employment readiness, education, health, legal assistance, emergency financial aid, and housing. Through MISSION UNITED, United Way of Long Island is aligning existing services and creating solutions where there are gaps in support.

“...The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

General George Washington, 1789

MISSION UNITED supports the men and women who served our country as they transition from military to civilian life.

www.unitedwayli.org/missionunited

NO MORE THAN TWO STEPS TO HELP

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HOUSING/ FAMILY HOUSING

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION

VETERANS LIVING IN NASSAU COUNTY, NY

42,640

VETERANS LIVING IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY

59,136

Nassau & Suffolk Counties are home to 14.5% of all Veterans in NY State (699,604)*.

* per 2017 US Census data
Romann served two tours, totaling seven years, in the U.S. Navy – one world tour and one West Pacific tour – before entering the U.S. Navy Reserves and serving an additional tour in Kuwait. Having traveled the world at sea, Romann was accustomed to spending limited time with his family. However, during his deployment, Romann’s wife gave birth to their firstborn. Being away for the birth and infancy of his daughter was heartbreaking, but he continued his duties to serve his country.

Upon return to civilian life on Long Island, the transition for Romann - like many veterans - was not as easy as anticipated. Looking to further his career and prepare for the future, Romann enrolled in college. While obtaining his veteran ID card to receive tuition assistance, Romann was introduced to VetsBuild, United Way of Long Island’s program that provides career training for veterans in the green construction industry. Immediately, Romann enrolled in VetsBuild while remaining a full-time student at NYIT.

During VetsBuild, Romann’s support system grew instantaneously. He and his fellow VetsBuild students gathered outside of class time, forming lasting friendships. Romann describes the staff support as expert, “In addition to the instruction, if I needed transportation, they were there to help. Needed a resume? They helped me.”

In 2013, Romann graduated VetsBuild. The occasion was marked not only a milestone for personal achievement, but also marked a new family milestone - his second daughter was born a couple of weeks prior and the VetsBuild graduation marked Romann’s first family outing as a unit of four. Thereafter, Romann entered the construction industry installing residential and commercial solar panels. Capitalizing on the technical skills and networks he created while in VetsBuild, Romann transitioned into a new job as an OSHA safety officer.

Most significantly, Romann notes that VetsBuild helped him gain a job with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a federal grounds caretaker. He credits the skills he learned in VetsBuild with giving him the edge on his resume to land the job, in particular his OSHA Certification and ability to read blueprints. Three years later, Romann is still employed at the VA and recently received a large promotion into the role of Program Analyst/Budget, overseeing contracts and overall budgeting for the Long Island National Cemetery.

Today, Romann is flourishing. He lives happily with his wife and two daughters, now ages 5 and 11. He is carving his own career path and excelling quickly, using the tools learned in VetsBuild. As for one of Romann’s favorite work perks, the 8-minute commute home, resulting in more family time.

Romann is the 2019 John Kominicki Memorial Rising Star Scholarship Recipient in recognition of his integrity, perseverance and commitment to advancing his education and leadership skills. This award recognizes a Long Island individual who displays excellence in leadership and a zest for learning.
MISSION UNITED is a critical funding source for programs supporting United States military veterans and their families as they transition to civilian life. MISSION UNITED focuses on case management and emergency financial aid, career training and employment and connection to available local resources. The need for these services is particularly significant on Long Island where more than 115,000 veterans live.

Case Coordination & Emergency Aid to help military personnel and their families. Services provided through our community partner organizations:

- Association for Mental Health & Wellness/Suffolk County United Veterans 631.924.8088 ext. 1503
- Family Service League/Armed Forces Relief and Welfare • 631.650.2182
- Mental Health Assoc. of Nassau County/Vet2Vet • 516.489.2322 ext. 1312
- United Veterans Beacon House • 631.665.1571

VetsBuild Training at United Way’s E3 SmartBuild Training Center, a state-of-the-art facility equipped with the latest technology and equipment, provides students with hands-on training in Green Construction, Weatherization and Facility Maintenance.

Veteran Resources are available through 211LI.org, United Way’s online resource to find information on a wide array of local services especially for veterans. Together with our supporters, United Way of Long Island’s MISSION UNITED program is helping our local heroes write the next chapter of their journey, as their service to their country comes to an end. www.unitedwayli.org/missionunited

For more information on Mission United, contact:

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