

The Sky is the Limit for VFW Scholarship Recipient

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Ohio native, Joshua Parker, has spent his entire career in the Air National Guard. Now 28-years-old, he is stationed in San Juan, Puerto Rico and working as a firefighter.

He gives a lot of himself, both in service to others and in his master's program. Parker is attending the University of Puerto Rico concentrating on an all-Spanish social work curriculum.

"One of the reasons I chose to pursue the path of social work is because I came from humble beginnings and I believe that through my rough experiences in my youth, I can help change the lives of others by providing resources to obtain a life of success," he explained.

A valuable resource enabling Parker to reach his goals is the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship." He heard about the scholarship at a post-deployment yellow ribbon event and knew it was a chance to further his education.

"The scholarship gave me peace of mind knowing I had financial support. My future career consists of helping others and creating paths to lead to success and that's exactly what the VFW's scholarship gave me," Parker said.

His belief that the military provides veterans with a toolkit to thrive through challenges along with his bright attitude will surely affect many people positively in the future.

"I plan on paying it forward. I believe life can be difficult for anyone, no matter your race, religion, socioeconomic status or any other outside factors. But I believe every person has something to offer to humanity for the betterment of all people," Parker said.

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Parker's plans are supported by the VFW's scholarship and the people who make it possible. He feels uplifted by the thought that people behind the scenes considered his dreams and made them achievable.

For fellow veterans, he wants to remind them they have the same ability to accomplish their educational mission.

"We have the ability to solve complex problems, work in teams, lead and so much more. The sky is the limit," Parker concluded.