

Helping Veterans 'Any Way, Shape or Form'

Marine veteran inspires service members to get help when they need it, and find community and a mission in life

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Today, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Richard Andrew Farrer inspires service members to get help when they need it and find community and a mission in life. But a few years ago, he never would've thought that was possible.

"For a long time, I was lost. I didn't have a path that was conducive to a good life. I drank too much. I suffered from PTSD, loneliness, depression and anxiety," said Farrer.

"Alcoholics Anonymous and Irreverent Warriors saved my life. I have been sober for over two years, I'm married, a home owner and extremely active in a great many veteran organizations."

Farrer is extremely grateful for the people who helped him turn his life around. As a result, he's committed to doing the same for others. Throughout the past two years, his involvement with Irreverent Warriors has grown from participating in their hikes to now being the regional coordinator for Tennessee.

Because of his own experiences, Farrer is passionate about his role and serving the Irreverent Warriors' mission to "bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide."

"I assist all city coordinators in my region – Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis – in every way. I make sure they have all that they need to put on a great hike," Farrer said.

"I also throw events or fundraisers so hikes can occur, and liaison between my higher command and push out all communications."

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In addition, Farrer serves as a board member for a number of nonprofits focused on the community and veterans, and he recently became the chief financial officer for the Heroes Custom Cup Company which donates profits back to veteran causes. He's also gotten more engaged with the VFW, serving as quartermaster for Post 4575 in Murfreesboro and for District 5 in the Department of Tennessee.

Farrer has discovered new purpose as a civilian. He's happy to devote his time to giving more veterans the chance to find good friends and a reason for living.

"I'm fortunate to help my fellow veterans in any way, shape or form," said Farrer.