

PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

April 2023

Partner For Life



Mr. Floyd Graves III is a 51-year-old Veteran. He served as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist in the Air Force; and as a Tree Trimmer and Water Meter Worker for the City of Oceanside. Floyd has been a client of the Veterans Career Program since 2019.

In 2022, shortly after learning that his position as a Water Maintenance Worker would be ending, he contacted our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Darah Gerou, for assistance. He was looking for a new position, preferably permanent. Like many individuals, Floyd had accepted part-time or contract work to fill the gaps between permanent positions.

Floyd's main motivation for finding a position was rooted in his desire to continue helping to support his family. Before starting the job search process, Darah helped him apply for unemployment and navigate other helpful local resources. She then assisted Floyd with updating, revising and tailoring his resume. They also updated his LinkedIn profile, practiced his interview skills, and discussed the best to "sell" himself to potential employers.

Floyd went on several second-round interviews with different companies – not an uncommon situation for many job seekers. In mid-April 2023, Floyd received and accepted a job offer with Caltrans as a Tree Maintenance Worker. He began his new job the first week of May.

Congratulations Floyd!

IMPACT + OPPORTUNITIES

20 Client Placements

- 15 Paid Employment
- 5 Education/Training
 - 17 Veterans
 - 3 Family Members
 - 5 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 12 clients placed in full-time employment was \$93,923 (a record high monthly average); and the average income for the 3 clients placed in part-time work was \$11,304.



Exploring Self-Employment



According to the National Disability Institute, 74% of people with disabilities do not participate in the labor force, but continue to turn to self-employment and small business development as a viable alternative.

On April 19th, graduates of Paralyzed Veterans of America's 8-week Disabled Veterans Self-Employment Pilot Program had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a distinguished panel of small business experts including Aaron Sharp Miranda (Wells Fargo), Tracy Cassady (Penske Automotive Group), Laura Wages (U.S. Small Business Administration) and Meghan Ogilvie (Dog Tag Inc).

Thanks to a generous donation from the Wells Fargo Foundation, we were able to award two \$2,500 grants to help PVA Members test and launch their businesses. Congratulations to Howard Cleland (PVA Wisconsin Chapter Member) and Tiffaney Davison (PVA Buckeye Chapter Member); and congratulations to all the participants in our pilot program.