

Specialist Barrett Howell

Military Branch: Army
Hometown: Tucson, Arizona
Institution: University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)
Degree(s)/Major(s): Doctor of Medicine

School was a constant struggle and an unpleasant experience for Barrett Howell growing up. After graduating high school Barrett joined the Army for a chance to get some real life experience. It was during this time his love for knowledge started to blossom.

The discipline, self-motivation, and refusal to accept failure that he gained while in the Army has driven Barrett's new love of learning. After completing his service, Barrett started college and cherished every day he had the opportunity to learn something new. Barrett's love of learning still drives him every day and he is excited to start on a new journey to become the best physician that he can be.

During college Barrett was diagnosed with a chronic inflammatory condition and began treatment. He discovered that there was not a single physician in the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Healthcare region that treated conditions like his.

After learning this, Barrett realized his experience in the military and his experience with disease would help make him an ideal physician. He plans on earning his board certification in Gastroenterology and practice with the Veteran's Administration caring for those who need it the most.



Sergeant First Class Glen Lacroix

Military Branch: Army
Hometown: Tucson, Arizona
Institution: University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)
Degree(s)/Major(s): Bachelor of Science, Psychology

As the youngest child of eight, Glen Lacroix knew that the only way he was going to be the first one in his family to graduate from college he needed to find a way to pay for it on his own.

Glen spent a year and a half after high school graduation working as a Physical Therapist Assistant for a sports medicine clinic. Glen joined the Army in October 1992 to be an Airborne Infantryman with the 3rd Ranger Battalion. He planned to serve his committed four years, get out of the Army and go back to college to become a Physical Therapist. Instead the Army offered him an opportunity to join a very special and elite group of individuals.

Glen followed this path for nine years in the military and for three years as a government civilian. Working as a Human Intelligence professional for the Army and other governmental agencies. He was medically discharged after 13 years of military service because of injuries and after three years of federal service his life changed.

Glen decided to go back to school and realize a dream that he had long since given up on, a dream of attending and graduating college. After completing his degree in Psychology, Glen intends to pursue a Doctorate in Physical Therapy and work with veterans holistically--physically, mentally and emotionally, to create a complete mind and body recovery.



Staff Sergeant William McCracken

Military Branch: Air Force
Hometown: Tucson, Arizona
Institution: University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)
Degree(s)/Major(s): Doctor of Pharmacy

William McCracken is very familiar with military life having been born at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and having traveled to many bases all throughout his childhood. William's military family and the love for country were the major reasons he enlisted in the United States Air Force.

During active duty, William worked on communication and navigational instruments on the KC-135 Air Refueller. As part of the 92nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, he performed this position not only at Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington but also supported operations in Southwest Asia.

William joined the Air Force Reserves to further pursue his educational goals. He became part of the 944th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona and cross-trained into the medical administrative position. As a medical admin, William realized that his passion in life is in the study of pathology. With this passion, William pursued a Bachelors of Science in Microbiology at the University of Arizona. While enrolled at U of A, William served as a math tutor and assistant to the teacher at a local charter school and worked as a behavioral health associate at a residential facility.

William has begun his studies at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and is working towards becoming a Pharmacist. William also currently works as a microscopist and web designer in a mycology lab at the University of Arizona.



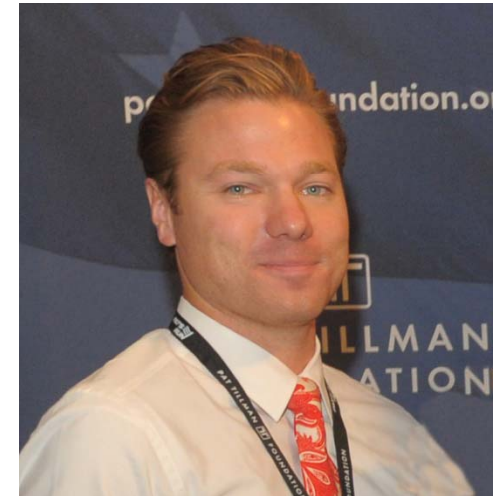
Corporal Dane Parker

Military Branch: Army
Hometown: Scottsdale, Arizona
Institution: University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)
Degree(s)/Major(s): Juris Doctor

The value of hard work and an education have always been a tradition in Dane Parker's family, passed from one generation to the next, always growing. But Dane, like his father in Vietnam and his father before him in World War II, had another trait passed down from his ancestors: love of country and the duty to serve.

After September 11, 2001, Dane left college and joined the United States Army, volunteering for every assignment he was offered. Within a short period of time, Dane had become an Airborne Infantryman participating in the initial invasion of Iraq. After active duty, he remained involved with Army Reserves and during this service Dane attended Arizona State University and received a Bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in history.

From Arizona State, Dane gained acceptance to the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. As Dane puts it, "I volunteered for the Army, the Airborne and Iraq because I wanted to fight for my country." Now, after 5 years of service and one deployment to Iraq, Dane wants to fight for his fellow veteran as a cofounder of the Veterans' Advocacy Clinic in Tucson where he is working with other to help guide their peers through the legal system. Combining his military experience with his educational pursuit, Dane is now motivated more than ever to support his fellow veteran and hopes to continue his work fighting for the rights of veterans and others misunderstood by the legal system.



Specialist Martin Stahl

Military Branch: Army
Hometown: Evergreen, Colorado
Institution: University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)
Degree(s)/Major(s): Bachelor of Science, Geography



Growing up in the mountains of Colorado, Martin Stahl has always had a fascination with the outdoors and, much like today, spent most of his time outside. The influence and appeal of the outdoors is reflected in both Martin's work and interests throughout his life.

Currently on his fourth year with Alaska State Parks, Martin has mapped the locations and conditions on over 700 miles of trails throughout the state. With this work and the information that is collected, trails have been improved through federal funding, quality maps are now available to the public and park managers can make better decisions through the planning process.

During the Iraq conflict, Martin enlisted as an infantryman to continue a tradition carried on by his family members serving this country. After four years of experiencing the world only seen through the eyes of the Airborne, he was ready for his next challenge of higher education.

With the honor of representing the Pat Tillman Foundation as a Tillman Military Scholar, Martin is transferring to the University of Arizona to continue his education in the mapping sciences. By earning a Bachelor's degree, he will continue his work to improve public recreation through the challenging and beneficial field of surveying and mapping.

Staff Sergeant Kris Carlson

Military Branch: Army
Hometown: Tucson, Arizona
Institution: University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)
Degree(s)/Major(s): Juris Doctor

As a naturalized American, Kris Carlson wanted to serve the country that had become his home. To do this, he enlisted in the U.S. Army one year prior to the attacks on September 11, 2001, volunteering for the special forces. In this role, Kris worked to defend American interests by serving in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Now as a law student, Kris works to defend his fellow veterans. With the assistance of other veteran-law students, Kris founded a veterans advocacy legal clinic at the University of Arizona. The clinic works in conjunction with the Veterans Administration to provide pro bono legal services to Tucson's veterans.

Through his work, Kris aspires to help restore public faith in the legal profession by serving as an example that lawyers are motivated by a desire to protect rather than being motivated by greed.

