by Carley Porter

There are 100,000 veterans in Utah. Many of them are older, having served during World War II, the Vietnam era or one of the Gulf Wars. However, as of at least 2019, one-third of the veteran population in Utah was considered “young” or below 55 years old. Along with a handful of veterans centers across the state, there are several Utah-based nonprofits, many of them founded by veterans, that have been created to better support the veteran population.

Warrior Rising

One such nonprofit is Warrior Rising, based in Salt Lake City and founded just four years ago. Although it isn’t originally from Utah, Warrior Rising has played a significant part in the life of Dave Dequeljoe, who moved to Utah earlier this year to work at Provo-based Qualtrics. Originally from New York, and a veteran of the Navy, Dequeljoe said he was going through a rough patch when he found out about Warrior Rising through another veteran organization just last year. The organization is kind, which is empowering veterans entrepreneurs, spoke to Dequeljoe.

The organization flew him out, Dequeljoe said, to attend an event where he learned about business principles, was gifted a suit and connected to several mentors.

“’It’s kind of turned my whole life around, really,” he said.

Through the Warrior Rising organization, Dequeljoe said he was able to raise funding to start writing a book about his experiences battling mental illness fighting Depression. Currently he’s working on rewriting the book again, but he said that it’s still available to anyone who needs help.

“My mom’s best advice to me when I was a kid was if you’re ever not feeling that great about yourself, the very best thing you can do is off other people,” Dequeljoe said. “So I was like, ’I just write about all the things I’m going through and just try to put it into the hands of as many (as I can).’

BYU students paint mural honoring Polynesian heritage

BYU football holds off Liberty

U.S. Army veteran Mark McKell holds a photo of himself, his brother, Arthur Nielsen, who also served in the U.S. Army, and their father, Arthur T. McKell, as he poses for a portrait Wednesday at his home in Spanish Fork. Born on Sept. 23, 1919, McKell is a 101-year-old WWII veteran.

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