

Tampa Veterans Build 2023

Serving Those Who Served

Alonzo Richards

Marine Corps

Alonzo Richards embodies the spirit of service, having answered the call to duty as a United States Marine. Enlisting as a Private First Class at the age of 17, immediately after completing high school, Alonzo's journey in the military was a path paved with purpose and dedication.

Inspired by family members involved in the ROTC during their high school years, Alonzo saw the value in military service. His favorite uncles, veterans themselves, further motivated him to follow in their footsteps and don the uniform of the Marines.

The globe became Alonzo's classroom as he traversed through 15 different countries, including the likes of Japan and Germany. A unique chapter of his life saw him stationed on a floating city ship in the middle of the Mediterranean. These experiences, gained as a young man in the Marine Corps, instilled in him new perspectives, discipline, and the ability to navigate life independently, shaping him into the man he is today.

In the company of his recruitment class, Alonzo forged bonds that would last a lifetime. Ten individuals from this shared journey became steadfast friends, a testament to the enduring connections born from military service.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps was a source of immense pride for Alonzo's family. They shared in his excitement, recognizing that this decision would afford him the opportunity to explore the world at a young age, and it wasn't long before Alonzo adorned his uniform with deployment ribbons, marking his contributions to his country.



Despite his veteran status, Alonzo encountered hurdles in his pursuit of help and resources for home repairs. A battle with homeowners insurance ensued after his first home suffered damage, leaving him feeling vulnerable and defeated, particularly while recovering from surgeries.

Alonzo's relentless determination led him to seek assistance from every veteran service and program within reach, yet the elusive support he sought remained out of grasp. In his darkest moments, he felt a glimmer of hope when volunteers from Habitat for Humanity Hillsborough County entered his life, like angels sent by a higher power. For Alonzo, this is nothing short of a miracle.

The volunteers and corporate sponsors of Habitat for Humanity Hillsborough County stand ready and eager to restore and renew Alonzo's home. Their dedication is a testament to the unwavering support they provide to veterans like him, ensuring that their sacrifices and contributions are never forgotten.