

Tampa Veterans Build 2023

Serving Those Who Served

Phillip Barnett

Military Veteran

Phillip Barnett is a man of remarkable character whose life is marked by service, faith, and an enduring sense of gratitude. As an Army veteran, Phillip's journey includes moments of courage and camaraderie, and he now finds himself benefiting from the invaluable support of Habitat for Humanity of Hillsborough County's Veterans Initiative.

Phillip served in the Army from 1974 to 1979, achieving the rank of Specialist 4. As a Paratrooper and Armor Reconnaissance Scout, he exemplified dedication and fearlessness. Throughout his working years, Phillip poured his commitment into his craft. For a quarter of a century, he lent his skills to a bakery and for 16 years, he contributed his talents to a local dairy. During this time, Phillip also raised a family that now includes two grown children, a daughter and a son.

His military service, he attests, provided some of the most intriguing and memorable experiences of his life. While he cannot pinpoint a singular moment of pride in his extensive career, he recalls being part of a special demonstration for the Secretary of Defense—a memory that stands as a testament to his service. Phillip also shares a unique claim to fame, having witnessed an unidentified flying object over Hope Air Force Base in the late 1970s.

Through those years, he forged enduring bonds with fellow service men and women, connections that have stood the test of time.



Now at 67 years of age, Phillip faces health challenges that limit his ability to care for himself and his home. Despite these obstacles, Phillip stands strong as a prostate cancer survivor, evidence of his resilient nature. Unfortunately, he lost the safety net of homeowners insurance as his home repair needs were mounting. When a severe storm damaged his roof, the financial burden of repairs became insurmountable.

Habitat Hillsborough's Veterans Initiative responded. Our team is tackling the home's critical repair needs such as roof replacement and providing exterior painting and landscaping. We want to ensure that Phillip can enjoy living in a sound home that is up to code.

Phillip views the blessings in his life as gifts from a higher power. He passionately believes that the intervention of Habitat for Humanity in his time of need is a testament to the divine guidance he holds dear.

In reflecting on the support he's received, Phillip states, "I am indebted to their kindness." Phillip Barnett's story is one of faith, service, and the enduring power of community. His gratitude knows no bounds as he cherishes the helping hand that Habitat for Humanity, its volunteers, and sponsors have so generously provided.