

Saluting Our Soldiers: Your Dollars Impacting Our Veterans

United Way of Long Island's Mission United initiative supports programs that serve Long Island's military, veterans and their families in the areas of case management, career training and emergency financial assistance.



PARTNER AGENCIES

Association for Mental Health & Wellness:

631.924.8088 ext. 1503

Provides supportive case management connecting veterans to available services and emergency financial assistance.

Family Service League: 631.650.2182

Provides emergency aid to financially struggling military personnel, veterans and their families.

Make It Count Foundation: info@makeitcountfoundation.org

Provides resources for Optimal Housing, Education and Health.

Mental Health Association of Nassau County:

516.489.2322 ext. 1202

Provides supportive case management connecting veterans to available services and emergency financial assistance.

United Veterans Beacon House: 631.665.1571

Provides supportive case management and emergency financial assistance. Screens and enrolls veterans in United Way's VetsBuild job training program.

Advancing in the Ranks



Romann served two tours, totaling seven years, in the U.S. Navy – one world tour and one West Pacific tour – before entering the U.S. Navy Reserves and serving an additional tour in Kuwait. Having traveled the world at sea, Romann was accustomed to spending limited time with his family. However, during his deployment, Romann's wife gave birth to their firstborn. Being away for the birth and infancy of his daughter was heartbreaking, but he continued his duties to serve his country.

Upon return to civilian life on Long Island, the transition for Romann – like many veterans – was not as easy as anticipated. Looking to further his career and prepare for the future, Romann enrolled in college. While obtaining his veteran ID card to receive tuition assistance, Romann was introduced to VetsBuild, United Way of Long Island's program that provides career training for veterans (at no cost) in the green construction industry. Immediately, Romann enrolled while remaining a full-time student at NYIT. During VetsBuild, Romann's support system grew instantaneously. Romann describes the staff support as expert, "In addition to the instruction, if I needed transportation, they were there to help."

In 2013, Romann graduated VetsBuild. The occasion was marked not only a milestone for personal achievement, but also marked a new family milestone – his second daughter was born a couple of weeks prior and the VetsBuild graduation marked Romann's first family outing as a unit of four. Thereafter, Romann entered the construction industry installing residential and commercial solar panels. Capitalizing on the technical skills and networks he created while in VetsBuild, Romann transitioned into a new job as an OSHA safety officer.

Most significantly, Romann notes that VetsBuild helped him gain a job with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a federal grounds caretaker. He credits the skills he learned in VetsBuild with giving him the edge on his resume to land the job, in particular his OSHA Certification and ability to read blueprints. Three years later, Romann is still employed at the VA and is flourishing. He lives happily with his wife and two daughters, now ages 5 and 11. As for one of Romann's favorite work perks? The 8-minute commute home, resulting in more family time.

Romann is the 2019 John Kominicki Memorial Rising Star Scholarship Recipient in recognition of his integrity, perseverance and commitment to advancing his education and leadership skills. This Scholarship recognizes an individual who, like John Kominicki, displays excellence in leadership and a zest for learning.