

Veteran Makes It Through Thanks to the VFW

'If not for VFW Post 1303 and the VFW's Unmet Needs program, the next issue to come up likely would have been the straw that broke the camel's back'

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A sense of duty to country is, in part, what led Kevin Flack, 34, of Bettendorf, Iowa, to join the military. He also wanted to uphold a family legacy of service. Both his grandfather and father were in the Air Force and his brother was in the Army.

Over a seven-year military career, Flack served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Infantry with the 10th Mountain Division.

While in Iraq, Flack suffered a traumatic brain injury and nerve damage as a result of an IED strike. After serving, he still felt the effects of those injuries and dealt with post-traumatic-stress issues.

Members of the VFW Post 1303 in Rock Island, Ill., suggested Flack apply to the VFW's Unmet Needs program to receive support as he dealt with his injuries and navigated other challenges. The group guided him through the entire process and made it extremely easy. The support was invaluable.

"If not for VFW Post 1303 and the VFW's Unmet Needs program, the next issue to come up likely would have been the straw that broke the camel's back," Flack said.

The assistance from the VFW allowed Flack to keep his vehicle as he went through the family court process where his service-related injuries were used against him. The unwavering support made a difficult process easier and even empowering.

Today, Flack is able to be a father to his nine-year-old son and is doing what he can to help other veterans. Although in a better place, he has not forgotten about past difficulties.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

He is frustrated that systems he fought to protect and uphold during military service failed to serve and protect him in his hour of need. Conversely, the VFW's Unmet Needs program was there to see him through to the other side. For that, Flack is forever grateful.