

NOTABLE VETERAN EXECUTIVES



DAVID HARRELL
DIRECTOR OF ARENA SECURITY
FISERV FORUM/
MILWAUKEE BUCKS

David Harrell has spent the past 20 years in the sports and entertainment industry, serving as director of arena security for the Milwaukee Bucks. Before joining the organization, he served more than two decades in the U.S. Army. He traveled all over the world, serving in Germany, the Middle East and Korea. Throughout his career, he was responsible for medical and training management for tens of thousands of troops.

He won more than 20 awards and medals throughout his career in the Army.

Harrell has worked at both the Bradley Center and Fiserv Forum in security and guest services roles. He has implemented procedures, including the emergency and safety/risk management programs, that ensured the safety of up to 20,000 spectators that attended each event at the arena.

He also maintains relationships with the major sports teams that utilize the venue and proactively manages security, building monitoring and operations year-round.

Outside of his career, Harrell has two daughters who have also embraced military life. One of his daughters graduated from West Point Military Academy and will soon be promoted to Major. His other daughter is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and will soon be promoted to lieutenant.



SAUL NEWTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WISCONSIN VETERANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For the past five years, Saul Newton has been an integral part of the Wisconsin veterans business community. He currently serves as executive director of the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce. He served in the Army from 2009-'12 and was deployed to Afghanistan for 13 months.

When he left the Army, he was struck by the "broken veteran" stigma that existed everywhere.

He founded the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting military veterans as well as veteran-owned and veteran-friendly businesses throughout the community in 2015 as a way to counter that stigma and showcase the leadership and entrepreneurship among the veteran community in Wisconsin.

He is a tireless advocate for Wisconsin veterans and also serves on the board of directors of the U.S. Veterans Chamber of Commerce, Feast of Crispian, and the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. He is a member of the Wisconsin Veterans Network Advisory Board, and volunteers with more than a half dozen local and statewide community organizations. In 2017, he was recognized as the Veteran Small Business Champion by the U.S. Small Business Administration. He is a member of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and Amvets.



MIKE THIRTLE, PH.D.
PRESIDENT AND CEO
BETHESDA

Mike Thirtle, Ph.D., has more than two decades of experience serving his community. He is president and chief executive officer of Bethesda, a nationwide Christian nonprofit based in Watertown and Brookfield. Prior to his current position, he worked with military and national security personnel for 20 years at Santa Monica, California-based RAND Corp. where he advised senior military officers and civilians on topics of military effectiveness, combat operations and national security. He served as personal advisor to the commander of Air Combat Command, the secretary of the Air Force, and the chief of staff of the Air Force.

Bethesda is committed to serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In his role, Thirtle advocates for veterans issues and promotes military service.

He is a mentor to veterans across the country, assisting them with career development and counseling, and has partnered with high school students for selection to the Air Force Academy and ROTC.

He frequently speaks on veterans issues in the community and also serves on the board for Team Red, White & Blue, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of America's veterans through physical and social activities. He is also a member of the American Legion, his Congressman's Service Academy Nomination Board and the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates organization.



JASON YOUNG
OWNER
3 UP METAL WORKS

Jason Young is a U.S. Marine Corps and Wisconsin Army National Guard veteran with over 15 years of proven experience in executive level operations, personnel development and management. He is currently the owner of Milwaukee-based 3 Up Metal Works, a custom metal fabricating company focused on the food and beverage industry as well as various metals and material for the commercial construction industry.

Young has been recognized for his strong leadership skills, his proactive approach and his change management and adaptability in challenging and diverse environments.

"I've had the pleasure of working with Jason for three years," said Michelle DeGrave, chief financial officer of Price Erecting Company in Milwaukee. "Jason's ability to apply the skills he acquired in the armed forces along with the desire to make people around him more successful has benefited Price Erecting two-fold."

Prior to owning 3 Up Metal Works, Young worked for Price Erecting Company for more than three years, serving most recently as president.

Outside of work, Young is actively engaged in the veteran community. He serves on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce and also supports troop shipments with Hunzinger Construction, the Milwaukee War Memorial and the promotion of veterans in supplier diversity.



ADAM WICKERSHAM
DIRECTOR OF THE EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM - LUBAR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

For more than 30 years, Adam Wickersham has served his community and his country. Today, he is director of the Executive MBA program at the Lubar School of Business at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

"Adam is a true inspiration to students, industry, and UWM," said J. Dietsberger, instructor at UWM.

Wickersham has applied his training and service orientation to a variety of leadership positions throughout the community. He was instrumental in the creation of the Milwaukee Municipal Identification Program, an initiative that has helped more than 5,000 under-documented residents gain access to critical services such as housing, jobs, banking, and protective services.

He has also served on the board of the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative and as a peer mentor with Dryhootch, a veteran support organization. Under his leadership, the number of veterans admitted into UWM's EMBA program has increased by more than 700%. Additionally, the number of minority students enrolled and the number of female students enrolled increased 130% and 300%, respectively.

"A natural leader, Mr. Wickersham is a tireless advocate for veterans in our community," said retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Mary Kuhnmuellen. "He is a passionate voice of support for our returning men and women in uniform."



KALIB HRBACEK
CHIEF ESTIMATOR
ALTIUS BUILDING COMPANY

Kalib Hrbacek is a leader within the construction industry with 16 years of experience and eight years of dedicated service to this country as a member of the U.S. Army.

He is currently the chief estimator at Brookfield-based Altius Building company.

Hrbacek served as sergeant in the Army, where he also earned seven awards for his achievements and completed a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2013.

He is a leader and mentor to veterans in the community through his support and leadership as vice president of the Nam Knights Brew City Chapter, a non-profit veteran and law enforcement motorcycle club, which also helps veterans in need.

He is also a board member for the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce, which is dedicated to improving the business climate for veterans in the community.

For Hrbacek it is easy to see how his military background contributes to his professional life.

"Accountability, leadership, transparency, and candor are all tools I have kept and refined as I moved back into construction," he said. "It has also prepared me to lead a team that focuses on project execution and deliverables while dialing in on the 'mission critical checkpoints.'"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

DAVID HARRELL
DIRECTOR, ARENA SECURITY | FISERV FORUM

2020 Notable Veteran Executive

Heroes for Healthcare Gala

A NIGHT TO BE HONORED

Saturday, May 1, 2021 | 6:00 PM
Brookfield Conference Center
325 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

Join us for our first Heroes for Healthcare Gala: A Night to Be Honored. Help us honor some incredible individuals! Money raised from this event will help us provide the following services, at no cost, to Veterans and transitioning military personnel:

- **Consultation:** transition support, resources, interviews, career development planning and housing/relocation assistance.
- **Employment Prep:** resume building, interview skills and job counseling.
- **Educational:** web training, hands-on skills training and college partnerships.
- **Job Placement:** access to job boards, job search support and proctored certification tests.
- **Philanthropic:** financial aid and educational cost assistance.

\$125/individual ticket. More information can be found at heroesforhealthcare.org/gala. Sponsorships are still available!

If you're a Veteran or Transitioning Military Member with healthcare experience or a medical background, Heroes for Healthcare will help bridge the gap between your valuable skills and current employment requirements. **Contact us at 1-866-456-3864.**



DAN NEWBERRY
CO-DIRECTOR
WWBIC - VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER

Dan Newberry joined the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation - Milwaukee just over a year ago as co-director of the organization's Veterans Business Outreach Center. In addition to his military background, Newberry has corporate experience in operations and financial management as well as logistics.

"We have been thrilled to add Dan to our VBOC and WWBIC teams," said Wendy Baumann, WWBIC president. "He is a remarkable and energetic professional who brings a strong sense of advocacy and caring to his work. He is clearly relatable, which is a great source of comfort to our veterans and military-connected family members."

In his role, Newberry guides veterans through the transition from military service to civilian life.

"Dan has special insight, understanding and sensitivity of what are the unique challenges and barriers faced by veterans and military-connected family members on the way to realizing their dreams," said Baumann.

Newberry also serves as executive director of Lift For The 22, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping veterans transition to civilian life by focusing on fitness and camaraderie.

He remains committed to his mission and has developed revenue generating and fundraising activities and refined all aspects of communications, creating a stronger brand from web presence to external relations.



DR. MAKEBA BUTLER
CO-DIRECTOR
WWBIC - VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER

Dr. Makeba Butler joined the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation - Milwaukee just over a year ago as co-director of the organization's Veterans Business Outreach Center.

According to Wendy Baumann, president of WWBIC, Butler is a transformational leader committed to strengthening workplace culture through the relationship-building process.

"She is a passionate educator and change agent who understands that positive relationships are the bedrock to any long-term connection, beliefs which have contributed directly to her research and publications," said Baumann.

Butler is an Air Force veteran and former education professional. She is passionate about supporting and recognizing women veterans as key contributors to the military and veteran community. She has extensive experience serving veterans, most recently serving as the associate director of veteran programs for the Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center at the Women's Business Development Center in Chicago.

"We at WWBIC are fortunate to showcase Makeba's talents," said Baumann. "We are especially concerned about opening opportunities for veterans who are also women or people of color. Makeba brings a highly-developed combination of skills in communication and cultural competency that will help clients realize their potential, especially in combination with (co-director) Dan Newberry's complementary skills. Together, as a team, they are unstoppable!"

CONGRATULATIONS!

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