



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Veteran Touts the Benefits of Veterans in Piping Program

18-week program for veterans' offers accelerated training in pipefitting and HVAC/R at UA 400 training facility.

Kaukauna, WI (November 19, 2018) — Paul Anderson attended college but decided it wasn't for him and enlisted in the Marines at age 21. After completing the School of Infantry (SOI), he was invited to join the elite Marine Raider Company. Following a successful military career that included three tours in Iraq, Anderson began the transition from active-duty to civilian life.

While contemplating career options, Anderson considered another deployment to Iraq and working full-time for the National Guard. After receiving an email from the United Association (UA) about their Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program, Anderson decided to visit Camp Douglas, Wisconsin to learn more about the program and a career as a steamfitter. The trip changed his life and Anderson entered the VIP Program in 2011.

The UA has partnered with the United States Military to create the VIP Program. This 18-week program provides returning veterans with six weeks of classroom instruction and 12 weeks of on-the-job training. There is no experience required. UA 400 has been offering the program at their training center in Kaukauna since 2008.

After completing the program, Anderson worked as a steamfitter apprentice and journeyman at MTI Mechanical Technology in Green Bay. Five years later, he was hired by CR Meyer as a project coordinator.

“Many vets get out of the military and there's nothing waiting for them and it can be difficult,” says Anderson. “At UA 400, there's a camaraderie among the members. They help you through your apprenticeship and that's the same brotherhood and sisterhood you have in the military. Vets can relate to the family atmosphere. You can definitely see a big difference in the vets who are in the program.”

The UA and Wisconsin Pipe Trades have been training qualified men and women in the pipe trades longer than anyone else in the piping industry. The group boasts the most comprehensive training programs anywhere including five-year apprenticeship programs, extensive journeyman and instructor training, and certification programs. There are no costs to veterans for the VIP Program. All funding for the program is provided by UA's International Training Fund, The Wisconsin Pipe Trades, The State of Wisconsin, and many statewide sponsors.



“UA 400 pushed me to become more successful. Jeff Knaus, business manager at UA 400, had a huge impact on me. He would call or text me and go out of his way to motivate me. The members and instructors challenge you throughout your apprenticeship because it’s not easy. Everyone is supportive and that makes all the difference.”

For information on the UA Veterans In Piping Program, contact Doug Dokey at UA 400 Pipe Trades doug@ua400.org and (920) 462-0405.

About UA 400 Pipe Trades

The UA 400 Pipe Trades, headquartered in Kaukauna, Wisconsin with an office in Fond du Lac, is comprised of approximately 2300 members serving eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin. The organization is affiliated with the United Association of Plumber and Pipefitters with an estimated 345,000 membership throughout the United States and Canada. The group’s mission is to be the preferred choice for industries, employers and workers specializing in plumbing, pipefitting, HVACR service and pipe fabrication as well as training for its members and qualified manpower to their 105 signatory contractors. The group’s membership serves eighteen counties in Northeast Wisconsin including Adams, Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menomonee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. The UA 400 takes pride in their partnerships and contributions to serve local communities with organizations such as Cerebral Palsy Telethon, Special Olympics, Rebuilding Together, Heat’s On Program, Harbor House and Salvation Army. To keep up with the latest news and to learn more about UA 400, visit <http://www.ua400.org> follow us on Facebook and YouTube.

For more information, contact:

Deb Fiebig
920.284.0163
fiebig.deb@gmail.com