



# MOSS CREEK MARINES OPERATION HELPING HEROES



Helping With K9's For Warriors Service Dog

**ADOPTED HERO NO. 34**  
**SSGT. JOSEPH WITH TROOPER**



## **WARRIOR-CANINE STORIES: JOSEPH & TROOPER**

Joseph made a career out of the military as a dual-serviceman. He started in the US Marines from 1995-2001, and then enlisted in the Army from 2004-2017. His time in service included multiple deployments to Iraq & Afghanistan, earning him many decorations.

“I was a Staff Sergeant who trained, motivated, and ensured safety from those under my charge. The impact was fulfilling at first, but then the impact of war changed all that forever.”

Some of the changes Joseph felt were severely negative; he began to suffer from PTSD. Knowing he didn't want that way of life, he decided to research K9s For Warriors after seeing one of his military friends with a service dog.



“After reading the information on their website and studying what service dogs do for people with PTSD symptoms, I became interested and hopeful.”

Joseph's interest and hopefulness led him to apply, and he came to Camp K9 for the December 2017 class. There, he was paired with rescue dog, Trooper, and started to experience a positive change in his life again.

“They teach you to trust the training of your dog and yourself. Once you have accomplished that, you'll see the change within yourself. But you must be willing to take that step. The dog will then help bring it out of you even more. Your dog will always back you up.”