



MOSS CREEK MARINES OPERATION HELPING HEROES

JULY 2020

**TOYE &
BAKE** 

July 23, 2020 5:00 PM



Helping With K9's For Warriors Service Dog

**ADOPTED HERO NO. 57
CWO. TOYE WITH BAKE**



WARRIOR-CANINE STORIES: TOYE & BAKE

Toye Hickman served 26 years in the U.S Marine Corps. For approximately six years, Toye was a personnel officer and had other duties such as being a casualty reporting officer and a victim advocate for sexual assault. Toye felt immensely impacted by these duties and has suffered from PTSD since.

“I was struggling with my PTSD symptoms for years and often isolated myself. I wanted to gain the courage to go out in public again. I have heard of veterans with PTSD that have had positive results with Service Dogs, so I decided to apply to K9s For Warrior with hopes to regain my confidence to go out and socialize again.”

Toye arrived at K9s For Warriors and was paired with her new battle buddy, Bake. The two trained for three weeks, creating a bond that will help mitigate Toye’s symptoms of PTSD.

“Bake is a non-judgmental buddy I can always turn to. He gives me a reason to get up and out of bed in the morning and keeps me on a schedule. I believe with Bake by my side, I can live a much happier and productive life. I love the outdoors, and I am hoping Bake will be part of the solution that gets me going out and doing things again with my friends.”

Toye and Bake continue their new path together at her home in Bluffton, South Carolina.

As of July 2020, K9s For Warriors has graduated 634 warrior-K9 teams.

