



## Nation's Finest Veterans Improving The Lives Of Veterans

U.S. Navy veteran Jason Henry enjoys the company of fellow veterans and makes it his mission to help improve their lives in times of need. He serves with Nation's Finest, a nonprofit that supports America's military veterans and their families with a comprehensive approach to housing, health and employment that helps them achieve self-sufficiency and reach their full potential.

Henry was stationed in Virginia as a damage controlman for the Navy's amphibious assault ships from 1993 to 1997. He then moved to Humboldt County, attended college and worked odd jobs. "I felt directionless, though, and when I started working for the Employment Development Department as a disabled veterans outreach program specialist, I felt better being involved with the veteran community," he says.

In 2011, Nation's Finest recruited Henry, who has worked his way up through many positions including housing coordinator, regional director, director of operations and chief operating officer. In his current role of performance improvement and innovation director, his responsibilities are to find more effective and efficient ways to provide

current services and to look at new areas of service needed.

Nation's Finest, who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary of supporting Sacramento-area veterans in 2022, provides mental health and substance abuse treatment, transitional and permanent supportive housing, homelessness prevention programs and employment training programs to more than 7,000 veterans annually.

"Our model is built on veterans helping veterans," Henry says. "That sense of community is a key reason it's successful as an organization and satisfying as a job. Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless are enduring some of life's hardest times and find comfort in our high level of cultural competency. We know military life, speak their language and have shared experiences."

For Henry, the quest is always to do more, especially for veterans in rural communities where services are distant, minimal or nonexistent. "I'm constantly seeking out what our veterans need and trying to fill those gaps," he says.

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**— JASON HENRY**  
PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION DIRECTOR



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