

## Meet Daniel Champ

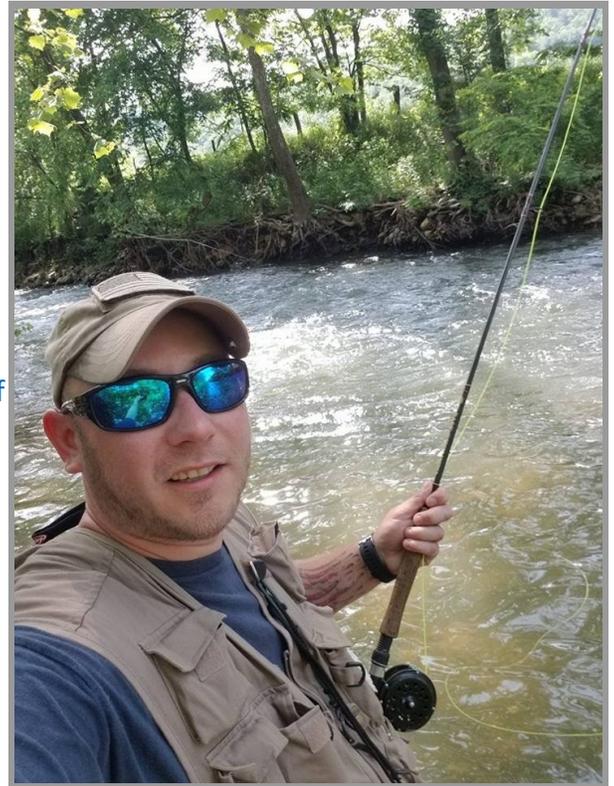
Daniel Champ is a native son of Pendleton County. The 32 year old veteran of the US Marine Corps worked at Great Valu grocery store during high school and graduated from Pendleton County High School in May of 2005. He always wanted to serve as a Marine because he wanted to follow in his grandfather's footsteps, but the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, are what reinforced his passion to serve in the Marines. The realization of his passion came to be following high school graduation when he entered the Marines in December of 2006. After basic training in Paris Island, South Carolina, he became an infantry rifleman in the First Platoon.

In 2008, he was deployed for a nine month tour of duty in Iraq, where saw combat in Falujah and Karma. The next year, he was re-stationed for a eight month tour of duty in Helmand Providence, Afghanistan. After his unit suffered great losses, he was relocated to Hawaii where he was ultimately discharged with honors. Daniel sustained several injuries during his service including a traumatic brain injury, shrapnel in his knee, and hearing impairments. He struggles with these disabilities daily and he has PTSD.

After serving in the Marines, Daniel studied criminal justice and forensic science for two years. He also worked in construction and landscaping jobs after graduation in various cities throughout the United States.

"There was just something missing. Even though I worked those jobs, I missed the rush, camaraderie, self-belonging, and just helping others in general that I had when I was serving in the Marine Corps.," Daniel says. "I talked to one of my former Lieutenants who was serving on a Forest Service fire crew, and he suggested firefighting might help me fulfill my desire to serve." In 2016, Daniel moved to Ukiah, Oregon and became a Hot Shot Wildland Firefighter.

Daniel enjoys fly-fishing and weekend outdoor ventures with his fellow servicemen. He was taught to fly fish by Project Healing Waters, a program dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled veterans. He fishes multiple times a week as a means of managing his stress.



Despite the injuries sustained in combat, Daniel currently works part-time at Moe Fatz, a local ice cream shop. Unable to afford to buy or build a home of his own, Daniel was referred to Potomac Highlands Fuller Center as a deserving individual with whom we have partnered to help build and buy his own home. Daniel will invest hundreds of hours of Sweat Equity helping to build his own home, and he will buy it using a zero-percent interest loan issued by our Fuller Center for Housing.

***With your help, Daniel Champ will be able to move into his new home in Sugar Grove, near the South Branch River, by the end of the summer. If you are inspired to volunteer to serve or to donate toward the construction of his home, please call or email us at:***

**Potomac Highlands Fuller Center for Housing**

**Phone (717) 331-6361**

**Email [volunteer@potomachighlands.org](mailto:volunteer@potomachighlands.org)**