

Christopher E. Azevedo has been selected as The 2018 Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran of the Year

(New Bedford, Mass., October 11, 2018) – The Board of Directors of the Southeastern Massachusetts Veterans Housing Program, Inc., better known locally as the Veterans Transition House (VTH), is pleased to announce the selection of United States Army SPC, Christopher E. Azevedo, as the 2018 Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran of the Year. Mr. Azevedo is the 23rd recipient of this award.

Mr. Azevedo deployed to Desert Storm, Active Navy, 1988-91, Active Navy Reserve until 1993, then honorably discharged in 1994. Mr. Azevedo became a corrections officer and then a fire fighter during his small break from military service. Following 9/11, he felt the calling to serve our country once again. He joined the Army National Guard from 2003-2006 as a small unit operator in the elite 173rd Long-Range Surveillance Detachment and was active duty with 42nd infantry division that was deployed throughout Iraq during Operation Enduring Freedom. He was honorably discharged from the Army National Guard in 2008. While in the theater of Iraq, he ran full-spectrum Combat Operations and during this deployment survived numerous attacks. However, one direct hit to his vehicle left him with a traumatic brain injury, spine damage and multiple secondary medical issues.

Retraining himself to adjust to college at the age of 45, he began his educational journey. Despite the difficulties resulting from the combat-related brain injury, he perseveres through to this day, maintaining academic honors. He has decided to dedicate his life to helping veterans and their families and friends, to learning the best possible ways to diagnose and holistically treat a person and their support systems in order to prevent some of the suffering he faced. He one day hopes to become a licensed psychiatrist.

In the spirit of camaraderie, he does not celebrate his own accomplishments. Instead, he continues to give back to the community through lectures about his personal journey, working tirelessly to network professionals with veterans and their families, friends and loved ones, rendering assistance in navigating services to address/prevent substance abuse, suicide and homelessness.