

# Letter from the Editor

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Dear Texas Veteran Community,

I am delighted to introduce you to the *Journal of Interactive Veteran Experiences*, a space where the remarkable stories and experiences of our veterans come to life. The decision to embark on this endeavor was driven by a deep-seated motivation and a profound sense of duty, both to our veterans and to the broader community.

The inspiration for this journal stems from the belief that the voices of our veterans deserve to be heard, understood, and appreciated. Each veteran carries a unique journey marked by sacrifice, resilience, and unwavering dedication to service. Yet, these stories remain untold, locked away in the shadows, both literally and figuratively.

Our goal was to create a platform where veterans can share their experiences in their own way. We want to provide a space for these remarkable individuals to express their thoughts, feelings, and insights, allowing them to reflect on their service and its impact on their lives. Through varied forms of media, we hope to bridge the gap between military and civilian life, fostering greater understanding, empathy, and respect.

My journey in academia, particularly through my auto-ethnographic dissertation titled "Story of Re-Creating Home: Learning as a Tool for Healing Post-Military Service," focused on veteran issues of transition and reintegration and allowed me to illuminate the pressing need for more spaces for veterans to share their voices, stories, and experiences. Through this process, I realized a significant gap in our understanding of veterans' experiences, and this journal is our humble attempt to bridge that gap.

In this interactive journal, we aim to capture the full spectrum of veteran experiences – from the triumphant moments to the challenges, from the pride in service to the vulnerabilities faced upon return to civilian life. We hope that, through this endeavor, we can provide healing, education, and inspiration to veterans and civilians alike. This journal will be accessible to academic institutions, actively engaging with the academic community to incorporate veteran experiences into research and education, contributing to a more inclusive environment for veterans in higher education.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We look forward to the stories, conversations, and connections that will unfold in the pages of this journal. Together, we can ensure that the experiences of our veterans are not forgotten but celebrated and understood.

Respectfully,

Dr. Heriberto Arambula  
Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Interactive Veteran Experiences*