

RICARDO PACHECO – BIO



Born the oldest of 5 on March 27th 1963 in Rock Springs, WY to US Army Korean War veteran, Arthur A Pacheco (deceased 2010) and Juanita Pacheco, surviving widow.

Family moved looking for work from Wyoming, Montana and settling in Lorain, Ohio a coastal city on the shores of Lake Erie 28 miles west of Cleveland with my 2 younger brothers and 2 sisters.

Graduated 1981 from Southview HS, a varsity letterman in Football and Baseball.

Studied at Kent State University, Trumbull Campus as a mechanical engineer major 1981-1983.



Enlisted in the US Marines in 1982 and officially went to bootcamp May 24, 1983 at Parris Island, SC.

Upon graduation from boot camp and Infantry Training School. I received my first duty station orders October 1983 to 2nd Marine Division , 2bn / 8th Marines Fleet Force , Camp Lejeune, NC; upon arrival my orders were immediately changed to Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, Marine Barracks , Yorktown VA where I served as part of a Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team aka FAST Co., as part of a Marine force in readiness to deploy anywhere in the world against terrorism.



As I completed my duty there in 1985 I was sent back to the fleet at Camp Lejeune, NC ,where I was ordered to serve with US Marine Expeditionary Force – UNITAS/WATC with 7th Naval

Fleet and Amphibious Assault Force in South America down to S Africa for 3 - 4 month deployments travelling to over 20 countries from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back home.



I decided to re-enlist for my 2nd tour and got orders to Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA in 1988 and a certified as marine mountain warfare infantry training instructor. Training thousands of infantry troops from NC, CA and Hawaii marines. We also conducted search and rescues, disaster events training with CA Fire and Forest protection agencies, with this unique skill set to navigate through mountains and survive in below freezing weather conditions. The base was formed in 1954 with the same longitude and latitude as Korea for cold weather warfare training, a brutal duty living 96 miles away from civilian communities in the Sierra Nevada mountains. This would come in handy because On Aug 5, 1990 me and my fellow 36 marine instructors were notified of a large Iraqi military advancement towards the Kuwait border and immediately Desert Shield commenced on Aug 8, 1990 , they split half of us to serve with the Pacific 1st Marine Division , Camp Pendleton , CA and the other half myself included to Atlantic 2nd Mar Division Camp Lejeune, NC. Upon our arrival, we witnessed busload and busloads of many reservists activated to active duty and deployed.

We were assigned to train troops on Iraqi weapons, how to navigate in rough terrain, and apply survival tactics for mountainous and desert warfare. This was very demanding as we worked non-stop 19- hour days instructing and helping move troops activated to Iraq, Kuwait, Turkey and various locations in the region surrounding Kuwait.

I tried in vain to get attached to 22 Meu SWATG group to join the campaign with any infantry unit that would take me but our orders and skillset were untouchable and only for teaching as more vital to the Marine Corps and often we were asked to act as advisors to infantry leaders going into combat that quickly turned to Desert Storm.

This passion to prove myself in a combat environment really pushed me to a state of depression, alcohol abuse and feeling ashamed and unworthy because I couldn't be with my brothers fighting and I decided to complete my tour and go home. I honestly did not feel like a veteran but just a marine who served.

Honorably discharged in July 1991 I went home and felt lost and hopeless trying to find a job in law enforcement and being turned down from many waiting lists that would expire.

I moved to California in 1992 and saw a lot of homeless veterans and tried to help them but I was almost one of them too.

I found work in the financial side of business in 2000 and was very successful as residential mortgage loan officer soon becoming a branch manager and leading men and women to succeed in this industry. I was still missing my purpose.

God found me in 2004 and my life changed as I grew in my Christian faith. I knew I had to do something to stop this pandemic of homelessness. I met some men with Heart Talk ministry in 2008 and we did what we could through donations and self-generated funds to help those in need at the local Gospel Mission in Sacramento, CA but it still wasn't enough.

Until 2012 I was approached by this non- profit organization formed by two men with a vision to empower veterans with the knowledge and help eliminate homelessness in our cities across the nation.

Since I have been part of this organization VAREP, over 40 families have obtained mortgage free homes and we are striving to help many more! My passion is giving a helping hand and hope to my brothers and sisters who served this country and need a helping hand.

I want every person I meet to be impacted in a way that ... they know what I have and that is the love of God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in my life and they can have that too.



Currently married for 17 years to my lovely and wonderful wife, Susanna M Gamboa- Pacheco, with our 7 children and 7 grandchildren living in Elk Grove, CA.

