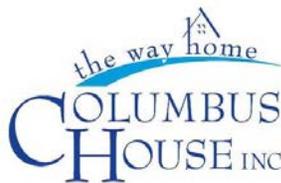


# Meet our “Ambassadors”



**US Coast Guard Petty Officer 1C Marc Harrell of Niantic, Connecticut** launched a new career on the water this summer, with the gift of a 38-foot research vessel from **Work Vessels for Vets, Inc.** Harrell served more than a decade in the US Coast Guard. On his off hours from duty as a flight crew member of the International Ice Patrol out of New London, Harrell volunteered with the Noank, CT Oyster Hatchery where he observed that the skills to make a successful oyster farmer are the same practical skills practiced in the military – self-reliance, a strong work ethic, purpose and leadership. When he left the USCG with service-connected injuries, he committed to have a business run by veterans for veterans. He believes that aquaculture therapy and time on the water will offer veterans new training and employment opportunities as well as

therapeutic experiences after combat. Finding a seaworthy vessel with the size and specifications for commercial fishing was a tall task for **Work Vessels for Vets.** But when Dominion Energy/Millstone Station called to offer to donate their research vessel Dominion I which had recently been replaced, they knew they had a perfect match. And a new life was launched.



**Anthony McInerney**, a resident of Connecticut, Anthony joined the US Navy through the Delayed Enlistment Program a few years after graduation from Waterford High School.

Anthony served 3 years on the USS Roanoke (AOR-7). The Roanoke was a Wichita-class replenishment oiler. Anthony and the Roanoke were deployed to the Persian Gulf to provide logistical support and supplies to various US Navy units during Operation Desert Storm.

A decorated Seaman, Anthony earned several commendations for his service including the Bronze Star for his service assisting evacuees from the Philippines after the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

After his service, Anthony spent time in California (the Roanoke’s home port) before returning to Connecticut where he ultimately became a youth counselor at a residential school for at-risk children. Near-fatal health issues prevented him from returning to the job he loved. Anthony was able to secure SSDI benefits but was unable to work and couldn’t afford an apartment. He ultimately ended up in a New London homeless shelter. Through the efforts of Covenant Shelter, Project Home, the VA’s Errera Community Care Center and Columbus House, Anthony moved into his own apartment earlier this year. He receives support services from a Columbus House case manager and has also received financial assistance through Columbus House’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

Anthony now enjoys spending time with his 14 year old nephew preparing their favorite meals and is thankful to have his own place.

