

# Potomac News & Messenger

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## Dreams to reality: Veteran stands ready to help

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Stephen Redmon believes that goals and dreams are achievable.

"That's what I got out of my military career," Redmon said. "It didn't matter what type of duty or what their mission was, as a member of the legal staff, I was able to help that individual or unit get from whatever their starting point was to whatever the particular goal was."

The former Army lawyer and Woodbridge resident has put that belief into action and started his own business, NOMDER, LLC, that will provide people with disabilities with customized state-of-the-art assistive technology and performance solutions to improve their quality of life.

While in the Army, Redmon served in Korea, Cuba and as legal advisor to the 76th Ranger Regiment. He currently serves as the legal advisor for the Computer Crimes Investigative Unit of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Command at Fort Belvoir.

"I had great assignments all over the place," Redmon said of his 20-year Army career. "I loved it."

Born and raised in Harlem, N.Y.C., Redmon received his undergraduate degree from Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y.; his law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham, N.C.; a master's in strategic intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College in Washington, D.C.; an advanced law degree in environmental law from Pace University Law School and is pursuing a doctorate in human and organizational development from Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, Calif. He and his wife have four children.

Before joining the Army, Redmon, 49, spent time in Sierra Leone working with the Peace Corps.

"I was in a small Mende village. There was no electricity, no running water," he said. "I worked with remote farmers and I learned a lot from them about life and how to survive and be optimistic when there are

very limited resources."

When he retired from the Army on Oct. 1, Redmon wanted to put his legal background to use helping people, particularly service members with disabilities and business people who need help turning their entrepreneurial dreams into reality.

"That's something I can put my heart into," he said. "It's about helping people tap into the strength, the energy, the wisdom that's within them."

He soon learned about and enrolled in a national program called the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans with Disabilities.

The 15-month program is an initiative of the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University and is designed to bring together veterans with the nation's leading business academics, entrepreneurs and Fortune 500 CEOs, all in an effort to jump-start business ownership for post 9/11 veterans.

During the program, participants develop a business



Courtesy photo

Former Army lawyer and Woodbridge resident Stephen Redmon is a "vetrepreneur" whose new venture assists those with service related disabilities and others who need assistance turning their dreams into reality.

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## DREAMS

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plan. Redmon's plan for NOMDER, LLC won the Burton Blatt Institute Dream and Innovation Award.

The program is broken into three parts—an online component, a residential phase and concludes with participants working with a mentor as they put their business plan into action.

"It's a fantastic program

that focuses in on veterans who want to start their own businesses," Redmon said.

Founded in 2007 by the Whitman School, the entire program is funded by private gifts and was expanded this year to include UCLA's Anderson School of Management, Mays Business School at Texas A & M and Florida State University's College of Business.

Redmon has also partnered with Katrina Arnold, the director of Northern Virginia Community College's Workforce Development and Continu-

ing Education office to begin a new leadership and organizational development certificate program, set to launch next spring. He said the custom designed program will use leading-edge technology and concepts to help people develop "SMART" goals that they can achieve.

"It's about setting a goal that is specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time based," he said.

Redmon and Arnold are also working together to launch the Rising Stars Youth Leadership and

Performance Improvement Camp next year. The camp will be part of the NOVA College For Kids Summer Program that will promote leadership potential, healthy behaviors and the attitudes and skills business owners identify as essential for success.

"It's catered to kids," said Redmon. "It's going to be fun."

To be placed on the contact and mailing list for the NOVA programs, call 703-878-8754. Space for the programs will be limited.

NomDER >>

HOW WE DO IT: REALIZING AND INSPIRING

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