

# Volunteer of the Month

## August 2017

*Gabe Gallias*



Gabe Gallias is the Buddy-to-Buddy August 2017 Volunteer of the Month! Gabe trained into the program in July 2016, and since then he's steadily built up his knowledge of resources and services to connect those he assists with. He has done a great job spreading the word about the program in his local community, even helping recruit other volunteers, such as Nathan Cross (now also our Outreach Coordinator). Gabe is leaning towards pursuing the field of veterans services professionally, and we are proud to count such a dedicated and motivated advocate among our volunteer corps.

Gabe served for five years in the Navy as a Seabee and was stationed out of California. He completed deployments to Afghanistan, Guam, Okinawa and East Timor. Gabe is studying business administration through a dual Siena Heights University and Jackson College program called 3+1. He works in the Jackson College Veteran Resource Center (VRC) in a work-study position and is the president of the school's Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter.

Gabe has found his calling in working with veterans, and this drive to help others who have served dovetails with his work as a volunteer. He initially learned about the program from a veteran resource representative at Jackson College. Soon after, he turned to B2B and applied to become a volunteer so that he could learn more about how he could get help for a veteran friend who was going through a difficult time.

Gabe has gotten into the habit of passing out his B2B card whenever he meets fellow veterans, and, at least once, doing so led to one of those veterans reaching out to him for assistance when the veteran was in crisis. Fortunately, Gabe was able to talk with the veteran and help him get back on his feet.

He explains that his motivation to become a Volunteer Veteran centered on "wanting to learn and understand more about what veterans face to be able to advocate and find more resources for them." Gabe says his favorite aspect of being a volunteer with Buddy-to-Buddy is learning more about the diversity of the veteran community and all of the organizations and people trying to better things for veterans. As a full-time student, Gabe spends much of his time studying and doing research. He enjoys spending what little free time he has relaxing, listening to podcasts, hanging out with family and friends, and attending outreach events.

**Thanks for all you're doing to serve fellow veterans, Gabe!**