

Ironworkers Local 75 Joins Veterans Service Organizations to Assist in Building Memorial

On October 4, volunteers from Ironworkers Local 75 joined Operation Freedom Bird and Mission 22 to put the finishing touches on the Adam Hill Gibson Memorial—a ten foot statue dedicated to the memory of armed forces member, Adam Hill and soldiers like him who have succumbed to Post Traumatic Stress



Disorder after serving our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. The statue is a silhouette of Adam’s likeness cut out of steel.

The monument is part of Mission 22’s War at Home memorial which will move around the United States every two years. The memorial features steel plates created in the likeness of a real American veteran who lost the battle with PTSD. Details about their lives and service will be inscribed at the base of each plate. The memorial’s goal is to bring awareness and honor to the 22 veterans who take their lives each day.

Hill’s mother, Anette Hill, was on site at the Ironworkers Local 75 training center to assist journeyman and apprentices in preparing the memorial for display at the Operation Freedom Bird annual Adam



Hill Gibson Memorial Golf Tournament, which occurred in late October.

“To let me come here on his birthday to do this, it means a lot to me. It’s a really hard day, it’s a hard month—it’ll be 7 years on October the 24th that he passed away,” Hill told the Ironworkers.

Adam was born in Phoenix, and joined the United States Army after graduating high school in The Valley. Adam served in a Stryker Brigade that was called for two tours in Iraq.

After an honorable discharge from the Army, Adam strived to continue his service to his community by working to become a police officer. In an effort to attain this goal, Adam was pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice.

Tragedy struck, as it so often does with our nation’s veterans, when Adam took his life on October 24, 2009 after a hard-fought battle with PTSD.

“To see your son standing 10 feet tall, you know? I’m at a loss for words. Thank you for honoring him and all the veterans who can’t find a way to cope with their pain,” Hill told the group.

“We’re happy to be involved—we wanted to thank him, and all the veterans for their service,” said Ironworkers Local 75 Business Manager Terry Wright.

To learn more about Operation Freedom Bird and Mission 22—two organizations dedicated to ending the epidemic of veteran suicide—please visit <http://www.operationfreedombird.org/> and <http://www.mission22.com/>.