



Office of Civil Rights

Public Service After American Service

In honor of Veteran's Day, Caltrans is spotlighting Disabled-Veteran Business Enterprise: Allied Network Solutions. This is part of a series of articles showcasing Caltrans' subcontractors' diversity.

Allied Network Solutions Chief Executive Officer and disabled veteran Roger Schnorenberg has fortitude – and because of that, he and his business have overcome challenges and excelled.

The Minnesota native's most dramatic demonstration of personal grit came in the 1980s and '90s, when he accumulated multiple injuries serving in the United States Army. Even after losing part of his leg, he continued to jump out of airplanes. Persisting to serve his country – despite his injuries – resulted in three years of physical therapy and more than six reconstructive surgeries. He still has extensive nerve damage, but he perseveres.

In 2009, he returned to his first passion, information technology. He is using his triple major in Math, Science and Computer Science Teaching from Mankato State University to benefit Allied Network Solutions, where he now serves as the Chief Executive Officer.

California Department of General Services lists the Rocklin Information Technology business as the top-grossing Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVDE) for the state of California.

Schnorenberg credits the success due to his team and their understanding of their main customer – the state.



“As long as you understand where your customers are coming from, no one is hard to work with,” he said. “But you can’t expect to establish yourself as a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise and have the work come to you. You have to go out and meet the customers and provide a solution.”

He said in his early years at Allied Network Solutions, he scoured the state’s online plans and met with buyers, such as Caltrans, looking for bidders. To do this, Schnorenberg had to overcome his mobility issues to physically meet state representatives. That experience taught him to work smarter and not harder. For example, he partnered with Ted Bort, who Schnorenberg says is an excellent salesman and meets with most of the people interested in buying IT solutions.

In addition to serving their customers, Schnorenberg and Bort, who grew up in the foster care system, contribute to Stanford Youth Solutions, Youth With A Mission, Wounded Warrior Project and the Disabled Veteran Alliance.

They also hire disabled veterans and offer flexible schedules, training, and a team environment to help other disabled veterans excel, because, as Schnorenberg said, “The human spirit is one of ability, perseverance and courage that no disability can steal.”

To get certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise visit [Caltrans' Website](#).