Gmail by Google

[redacted] Testimonial

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [redacted] I am a 35-year-old veteran of the United States Air Force. After graduating from Moon High School in 2001 I attempted to further my education by going to a community college in Pittsburgh, PA. It took about a year for me to realize that college just wasn't for me at that specific time in my life. I decided that the military would be a nice change of pace and a good way to start my life as a young adult. I found a recruiter, took the ASVAB, picked a job, and was on my way to starting the best journey of my life. My enlistment was 6 years (2003-2009) of some of the best times I have ever had. I eventually was honorably discharged in November of 2009 and started working as a contractor doing the same trade I did in the USAF until addiction got in my way.

The first experience I had with drugs and alcohol was as a 14-year-old yearning to fit and be cool. I took the typical route of drinking and partying with friends and smoking marijuana occasionally at parties, to the progression on the harder drugs. Growing up I was a very quiet, introverted, and nervous individual. I feel I enjoyed drugs and alcohol so much because they took me out of myself and gave me the confidence I needed to be the person I wanted to be while sober and not have severe anxiety. My drug of choice eventually became heroin and cocaine and by the grace of God I and still alive, with the chance to possibly help another addict. I was 15 when I first tried Oxycontin by way of sniffing it. By the time I was 18 I had experimented with numerous drugs and alcohol, all leading me to intravenously using heroin. I have been very fortunate to not have ever overdosed. I have come very close in the past but never had to be transported to the hospital or brought back by Narcan. At my worst, I was using up to $500/day. I eventually was tired of living that way and sought help the first time in September 2013. I have been to rehab several times, 6 to be exact, including this last attempt at California Palms.

I have been at the California Palms for 16 months now and it is an awesome and necessary institution. It is like no other place I've gotten treatment from, primarily because of the array of different types of therapy options I've received. Not to mention the comfortability that is second to none. Here at California Palms, the atmosphere is such that it makes it conducive to truly recovering your mind, body, and spirit. The focus on rebuilding familial bonds and getting a holistic treatment of its client's issues makes it, impossible to fail. I used the Veterans Affairs program called Veterans Choice Program to finance the beginning of my stay here at the California Palms, but for the majority of the time, I have been afforded free care. My gratitude towards this place is truly unexplainable. While other places are only worried about how they can turn clients over for profit, I have been granted the opportunity to stay here while trying to catch my footing in life to figure out what I'm going to do next. I am forever appreciative for this establishment and they have helped me tremendously because without their help I might not have made it.

Sincerely,

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