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## Testimonial at Cali Parc

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**Sebastian Rucci** <sebastian@caliparc.com>

To: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am 27 years old. I graduated from Yough high school in Herminie, PA. I joined the United States Marine Corps straight out of high school. I was an avionics technician on the V-22 Osprey from 2009 – 2013. In 2011 I deployed to Afghanistan for 7 months.

Towards the end of my deployment, I injured my back, hips, knee, and shoulder. I was put on painkillers for about 4 months and then I was discharged from the Marine Corps. Whenever I got out, I was addicted to opiates along with symptoms of PTSD. I did not have any more painkillers so I started withdrawing. That led to a search for more opiates to stop it. That is when I discovered heroin and fell in love with it. I used heroin almost every day from 2013 – 2017. Throughout that time of use, I overdosed around 13 times. I went to the 21-day inpatient program at the VA in Pittsburgh in 2015. It was not enough time for the therapy I needed. I relapsed the day I finished the program. In February 2017 I tried their program again and I kept on leaving because I had money, knew the area too well, and where all the drugs were. That is when the VA decided to put me on Veterans choice and we discovered California Palms in Ohio.

I went to California Palms on [REDACTED] to start treatment. I was their first patient. As soon as I walked in the door, they offered me food and everyone was very welcoming and happy. The counselors were amazing. They taught me everything they knew about addiction. I honestly could not have asked for anything more. Along with the great counseling, I participated in Tae Kwon Do, Tai Chi, water therapy, gym time, church, and AA/HA meetings. After being there for 6 months I decided to go to college from Cali Palms at Youngstown State University. I felt like I was ready but it turned out that I was not. I made it 3 months at college and I relapsed. I left Cali Palms and got an apartment. I used heroin from January 2018 – May 2018. On [REDACTED] I called the owner of Cali Palms and told him I needed help. He got someone to come pick me up and they welcomed me back with open arms. I have had a total of 14 months of free care at Cali Palms. This time around I am more involved with being spiritually fit by participating in church and AA/HA. I attend church weekly along with AA/HA meetings. Honestly, if it was not for California Palms treatment center I would most likely be dead. This treatment center is amazing and I am grateful for every day I get to stay here.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]