



Office of Civil Rights

Honoring Veterans

In honor of Veterans Day, Caltrans is spotlighting Disabled-Veteran Business Enterprise: Disabled American Veteran Enterprises (DAVE) Trucking and Sweeping Inc. This is part of a series of articles showcasing Caltrans' subcontractors' diversity.

November 11 – Veterans Day – is a day to give thanks to veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. To be a veteran, soldiers must be willing to give their lives as an ultimate sacrifice defending the values of their country. Many soldiers are honorably discharged without injury. But sometimes they live with debilitating damage for the rest of their lives. Sean Reed experienced the later.

The Navy Plane Director cracked his spine while serving his country three decades ago. Fortunately, like most Veterans, he has grit. This allowed him to overcome the injury that took years to heal.



Now, 31 years later, he is a successful businessman, owning and operating a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) he cleverly named, “Disabled American Veteran Enterprises (DAVE) Trucking and Sweeping Inc.”

“I’ve been in construction almost 30 years,” the Fresno native said. “It’s tough in this industry, but there are good people. You have to hustle. If you have good relationships, it helps to get thing done.”

In 1995, he got into the Operating Engineers Local 3. He was an equipment operator for Lee’s Paving, Inc., then he worked for Granite Construction, Kiewit, Teichert Construction and Floyd Johnson Construction, Inc. out of Fresno.

In May 2013, he started Dave Trucking and Sweeping Inc.

Seven years later, the business is doing well – but he is still hustling and working seven days a week. He has 26 trucks and 33 employees to help. He has a contract with High-Speed Rail, but 95 percent of his work is on Caltrans projects.

“If you want to start your own business,” he says, “You must have the skills to do all your business crafts, certified payroll, accounts payable and accounts receivable. You have to research a lot. After I’ve worked all day, I spend my nights researching because we need to get paid.”

He said he is lucky if he gets paid within 45 days of a job, so he’s had to leverage everything he owns to keep the business, and his family afloat. He has four children, ranging in age from 12 to 18, and an understanding wife, Kristen.

Right now, his business is hauling all the dirt, base rock, and concrete aggregate to make the concrete for the US Highway 101 project in Kings City.

“We’ve been hauling 36,000 tons of material with 16 to 18 trucks a day for the past month and a half,” he said.

Besides hard work and dedication, he advises other small businesses to get to know the players in their field. He said new businesses should get out in front of larger contractors and present information on how their business can help prime contractors.

“If you talk to someone face-to-face, show them that you are hungry... that you are going to be there day-in and day out.” He said.

This Veterans Day, Reed said he is going to work, but he thankful for his family, business, and customers.

“It is good to be alive,” he said.

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