

‘When You Think, You Can!’

How one woman veteran found her "Miracle" through a VFW scholarship

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Veteran Missy Melvin lives in Ocala, Florida, with her husband, Jaime Morales, and their three children: Jamyss, Tatianna and Ja’mani. Melvin served in the Army for 12 ½ years, becoming the only female in her convoy, a 1st scout and one of two females out of the battalion to drive an armored security vehicle (ASV) in Iraq.

Melvin always knew she wanted to serve her country.

“I was a soldier before I was a soldier. My heart is full of service,” she said.

Melvin found the VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” through an online search for educational opportunities. She applied for six scholarships a week hoping for an acceptance. Melvin thanks the scholarship providers for helping her move forward in her career.

“If you believe in miracles, I think this is my miracle,” she said.

Melvin is pursuing her degree in health administration and management at Keiser University. She became interested in nursing through the U.S. Army Combat Lifesaver course. Melvin also managed 120 trucks during an explosion, helping lead her to her current position as a travel CNA in trauma and behavioral health.

Melvin completes lots of hands-on work, but she is eager to expand her methods of serving others.

“I have my associate [degree], but I’m ready for more. With this degree, I’m learning so much and I’m already making a bigger difference,” she said.

After graduation, Melvin hopes to work in a health management position to advocate for others. She is passionate about helping the elderly community.

“I would like to eventually open a group home,” Melvin said. “I ask myself how a space can

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be more elderly friendly, like the physical environment or something as small as teaching them more about their smartphone.”

For veterans pursuing an education, Melvin encourages them to stay motivated and put themselves out there. Organizing big tasks into smaller ones and searching for services helped achieve her goals.

“Don’t be afraid,” she said. “It was so hard to leave my babies, but I kept going. There are people who want to help you.”

Melvin said there are no words that amount to her gratitude. She is extremely thankful for the assistance in her time of need.

“In my darkest moment of trying to figure out how to finish school, I got the scholarship,” Melvin said. “I’m ready to give back and see what I can do. When you think, you can!”

[Learn more](#) about the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship."