

PFC Cody Calderon:

In March 2021, PFC Calderon enlisted in the United States army as a Combat Engineer. Prior to his service, the 32-year-old was a professional bartender in New York City for three years before he chose to work as a consultant for a Forbes 5-Star resort in southern Wyoming. He met and married his wife of 5 years in the summer of 2017 while owning and operating property rentals in San Diego, California. The couple have lived in several major cities with their dog, Leo, from San Francisco, CA to Austin, TX and Raleigh, NC. They are avid travelers and enjoy the simplistic beauty of purposeful living.

PFC Calderon founded and operated a custom carpentry business in Chapel Hill, NC prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, but was disrupted by shutdowns and had to pivot. After dealing with an eviction not long after, he and his wife were forced to move into hotels while trying to find work. Joining the Army was the hope he needed to keep his family together and safe.

While attending One Station Unit Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, PFC Calderon graduated with top honors and received his first Army Achievement medal. He reported to his duty station, Fort Polk, LA, in July 2021 and was assigned to 20th Engineer Brigade, 46th Engineer Battalion, 573rd Clearance Company Outlaws where he found his home in 3rd Platoon. Shortly after his arrival to the unit, he was part of a selected group of soldiers who were tasked to aid and relieve the victims of Hurricane Ida in Southeastern Louisiana. The Task Force worked tirelessly for a month removing obstructions, cutting trees, and clearing levees of debris that were causing additional flooding to the surrounding areas. For his unit's humanitarian efforts, he and his entire team were awarded the Army Achievement medal.