

Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives*, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

Committee: _____

Subcommittee: _____

Hearing Date: _____

Hearing :

Witness Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Witness Type: Governmental Non-governmental

Are you representing yourself or an organization? Self Organization

If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:

FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.

Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you, the organization(s) you represent, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government and related to the hearing's subject that you, the organization(s) you represent, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

- I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.
- I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(ii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

False Statements Certification

Knowingly providing material false information to this committee/subcommittee, or knowingly concealing material information from this committee/subcommittee, is a crime (18 U.S.C. § 1001). This form will be made part of the hearing record.

Witness signature

Date



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San Diego, CA 92113
Phone 619.550.1620
Fax 619.550.1621

**REBUILDING AMERICAN
MANUFACTURING,
ONE VETERAN AT A TIME®**

May 15th, 2023

The Honorable Representative Derrick Van Orden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity
U.S. House of Representatives
364 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Van Orden:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Wednesday the 17th of May, 2023 at 1500hrs at the oversight hearing held by your subcommittee regarding the Transition Assistance Program: Steps to Ensure Success for Servicemembers as they Enter Civilian Life.

My name is Hernán Luis y Prado and I am the Founder and CEO of Workshops for Warriors which is located at 2970 Main Street, San Diego, CA 92113. I can be reached via telephone at 619-550-1620.

Thank you in advance for taking care of our Nation's veterans.

Attached is my written statement.

Very respectfully,

Hernán B. Luis y Prado

Hernán B. Luis y Prado
CEO and Founder

Transition Assistance Program: Steps to Ensure Success for Servicemembers as they Enter Civilian Life.

Written Testimony from Hernán B. Luis y Prado, CEO of Workshops for Warriors

Have you ever struggled or lost your footing? Do you remember how it felt to suddenly lose a job or even worse, a loved one? I'm a fifteen year Navy veteran with combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I knew that on any given day, more than twenty of us were dying from suicide.... Why was I losing more friends to suicide than to bombs and bullets overseas?

When you're in the military, you're part of America's suit of armor. In this purpose driven tapestry each of us knows what is expected, and what to expect from others. But when your service ends, you are suddenly ripped out of this fabric and find yourself alone...adrift...and without a mission. The sudden lack of income, purpose, and identity are overwhelming because you've never been trained or equipped for this new set of challenges.

When I came back from my first tour in Iraq, many of the injured Marines convalescing at National Naval Medical Center would come to my house, gather in my garage, to tinker with tools and pass the time. Spending time together made me realize how worried these combat veterans were about the scariest thing they had ever encountered...their imminent transition to civilian life.

Our numbers grew, and soon my garage became crowded with Marines, welding, machining, and fabricating, the underpinnings of manufacturing.

But this was just a diversion. I needed to find a long-term solution for the veteran crisis as well as another looming problem.

While we were distracted in not one but two wars, China overtook America and became the world's number one manufacturing nation. Manufacturing dominance had long been America's economic backbone...but now, it was no longer our superpower.

I began to wonder, could we retrain veterans to help America regain her economic and manufacturing prowess? What if we gave every honorably discharged veteran the opportunity to rebuild America's manufacturing workforce, to have a dignified life, to be a part of the American dream? It sounds great, right? I just didn't know how.

In 2006, I was in the mall when I heard a familiar voice call out "Doc!" I turned to see one of my Marines who I had served with coming towards me. He told me that he had lost both of his legs to an improvised explosive device in Iraq ...right after I left him. I remembered his dream of being a Marine Corps "Lifer" and as he wheeled away from me, I was devastated. Not just by him, but because he represented the lost dreams and aspirations of all of my injured comrades-in-arms. My knees literally melted and as I sank to the ground I had a life changing epiphany that has driven my life ever since. I grabbed my wife Rachel's arm and said, we're going to sell everything and do something.

To Rachel's huge credit she said, yes. We sold our home, vehicles, and cashed in our retirement to create an advanced manufacturing training center so that our veterans could be trained for a viable future. We named it Workshops for Warriors.

Workshops for Warriors is the only accredited nonprofit in the US dedicated to training veterans and transitioning service members in welding, fabrication, CNC machining, 3D printing, quality assurance, metrology, machinery repair, and computer aided design. Workshops for Warriors graduates leave with nationally recognized portable and stackable STEM credentials. Due to demand, our school has grown to 350 times the size of our original footprint and is the largest advanced manufacturing training facility for veterans in the US. We have graduated more than 1125 veterans who have earned more than 12,000 nationally recognized credentials and have a 94% average placement rate. Workshops for Warriors graduates work in every state of our nation in advanced manufacturing careers for companies like SpaceX, Boeing, and Ford. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy called us the “SEAL team of manufacturing.” The Administrator of the Small Business Administration called us “The most impressive facility she had visited (out of the 7,000 she had visited).”

Since 2015, approximately forty percent of Workshops for Warriors graduates found out about our program through the Transition Assistance Program and fifty-six percent of our graduates attended our school by using SkillBridge.

We know that TAP and SkillBridge work.

We know that retraining veterans works and it could solve our Nation’s manufacturing crisis while giving veterans an opportunity to serve our Nation once again.

Let me share one of our success stories. Craig was living in his car with his four year old son Kane. Out of gas, with \$2 in his wallet, and no-where to go, this honorably discharged navy veteran was homeless, desperate, and losing hope. But that all changed when Craig called us. When he walked through our doors he found hope. A donor provided a scholarship for him which included tuition, housing and a stipend for food and childcare. After completing Workshops for Warriors’ 16 week accelerated and accredited STEM training program in CAD/CAM programming, CNC machining and 3D printing Craig was offered a full-time position at a manufacturing company in Alabama at \$60,000 a year; but for Craig...this means that he bought his first home three months after graduating from our program and his son Kane now gets to sleep in a real bed for the first time in his life.

That's impact.

More than 1,125 veterans now have income to provide for their families... more than 1,100 veterans are now building up our nation instead of tearing themselves and their communities down through unemployment, suicide and homelessness. Like Craig, our graduates become the machinists, welders, and skilled advanced manufacturing workers that our country needs to rebuild our infrastructure while paving the way for a brighter future for all of us.

So what's the issue?

After coming out of the longest war in our Nation's history and two years of covid, we were all shocked to realize the Nation that created Henry Ford couldn't deliver vehicles. The Nation that created the world's most advanced computers couldn't manufacture microchips. The Nation that created the Salk vaccine to cure polio couldn't produce our own medications or personal protective equipment.

For the first time, America had to rely on other nations for the physical safety and wellbeing of American citizens on our own soil.

In January 2023, Deloitte and the National Association of Manufacturers confirmed that America currently has 803,000 unfilled jobs due to lack of skilled labor, with more than 2.1 million manufacturing jobs going unfilled by 2030.

This is a problem that can be solved by training our veterans.

There is a dire need for manufacturing talent, particularly in the Department of Defense and Department of Energy. If our ability to manufacture nuclear submarines, nuclear aircraft carriers, and nuclear reactors erodes, it would be exceptionally challenging to regain it.

I would urge you to consider increasing the amount of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and other subsidies for transitioning service members that utilize SkillBridge so that those that are capable could be trained into rebuilding our nuclear triad, particularly our Columbia Class submarines.

We should take advantage of this golden opportunity to allow competent, capable, and committed transitioning service members to focus on compressed advanced manufacturing training, and not on survival. The majority of advanced nations have nationally subsidized manufacturing and vocational training programs, except for America.

Now is the time for a new vision and decisive action. This is America's opportunity for a new New Deal. Imagine advanced manufacturing training programs that transform more than one million service members who are transitioning out of the military in the next five years into the greatest manufacturing force the world has ever known.

That millions of Americans trained for war had been retrained for a new purpose.

I am asking that Congress expand the Transition Assistance and SkillBridge programs as well as increase BAH for students attending those schools so that Americans trained for war could attend a nationally viable advanced manufacturing training program, like Workshops for Warriors, to regain their destiny and start a new career.

Let's train our veterans to make America the world's manufacturing superpower again.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder and CEO, Workshops for Warriors (April 2008 - Present)

Founded and operates a \$10M nonprofit that trains, certifies, and places Veterans and Wounded Warriors into Advanced manufacturing careers in welding, machining, and fabrication. Recognized by the White House and San Diego Mayor as the only accredited school in the Nation dedicated to training Veterans and transitioning service members. Received White House Champion of Change Award in 2012, received Keith M. Turnham Humanitarian award on 14Nov2014, won San Diego Venture Partners competition for Best Non-profit serving the Military in 2013.

Founder and CEO, VetPowered (October 2009 - Present)

Founded and operates a \$3M advanced manufacturing business to serve the shipbuilding and aerospace community. Responsible for all facets of an organization that specializes in advanced CNC machining, 3D Printing, laser cutting, water jetting, and turning operations as well as the maintenance, and repair of industrial and commercial machinery. Awarded Best CEO in San Diego 2017. Awarded “Small Business Person of the Year for California” in 2022.

Officer in Charge, Navy Cargo Handling Battalion-3 (October 2010 - 2013)

Responsible for thirty-three SeaBees and \$1M budget. Tasked with providing Expeditionary Cargo Handling to Forward Operating Bases and combat units worldwide.

Combat Systems Officer, USS MAKIN ISLAND LHD-8 (December 2006 - February 2010)

Responsible for Acquisition, Construction, Testing and Use of all Combat and Weapons Systems from Pre-commissioning to Commissioning on the Navy’s first Electric Big Deck Warship.

Assistant North Area Operations Officer, Naval District Washington (July 2003 – December 2006)

Responsible for operating functions for the United States Naval Observatory (home of the Vice-President of the United States), Defense Information Systems Agency, and Bureau of Medicine. Deployed to Afghanistan for combat operations for six months.

Operations Officer/Executive Officer, USS FIREBOLT PC-10 (October 2001 - July 2003)

Responsible for twenty-eight personnel and the operation of a United States Warship attached to Naval Special Warfare Unit Four. Performed two cruises supporting the Department of Homeland Security. Transitioned into Chief Staff Officer when ordered to take tactical control of two other warships and steam to Iraq before hostilities commenced. Spent seven months inside Iraq in combat operations. Escorted first humanitarian shipment to Iraq from the HMS Sir Galahad on the 28th of March 2003. Captured 39 Prisoners of War.

Electronic Warfare Officer/Damage Control Officer, USS RAMAGE DDG-61 (December 1999 – October 2001)

Responsible for thirty-two personnel dedicated to the interception and exploitation of the electromagnetic spectrum as well as personnel dedicated to the safety and repair of the ship during routine operations, casualties, flooding, fire, grounding, explosion, and training for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical attacks.

PATENTS & TRADEMARKS

Invented more than forty patents and trademarks listed with the U.S. Patent Office.

AWARDS

2022 “Small Business Person of the Year for California” by the Small Business Administration

2022 “Veteran Owned Small Business of the Year for California” by the Small Business Administration

2018 “Entrepreneur of the Year” by the San Diego Business Journal

2017 “CEO of the Year” by the San Diego Business Journal

2016 U.S. Congressional Recognition

2015 “Veteran of the Year” California State Assembly

2014 Special Commendation by Mayor Kevin Faulconer

2014 Awarded the Keith M. Turnham Humanitarian of the Year

2012 White House Champion of Change –Presented by President Barack Obama

EDUCATION

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS (January 1997)

PARIS, FRANCE

Electrical Engineering/B.A. European Cultural Studies/Philosophy

LYCEE INTERNATIONAL DE SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE (June 1990)

SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE, FRANCE

Baccalaureate A1: Philosophy and Mathematics

Biography for Hernán Luis y Prado's Testimony at the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on 20230517

Hernán Luis y Prado
Chief Executive Officer & Founder, *Workshops for Warriors*

Mr. Hernán Luis y Prado served for 15 years as an enlisted Hospital Corpsman attached to the United States Marine Corps. Upon receiving his commission as a Naval Officer in 1999, he served combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. While on active duty, in 2008, he founded Workshops for Warriors (WFW) www.wfw.org, that trains, certifies, and places veterans and transitioning service members into advanced manufacturing jobs to help rebuild our nation.

Hernán Luis y Prado was recognized by the Obama White House as a “Champion of Change” for WFW’s extensive efforts and notable achievements in helping veterans successfully transition from the military into advanced manufacturing careers. In 2017 he was selected as “CEO of the Year” by the San Diego Business Journal. In 2022, Mr. Luis y Prado was honored as the Small Business Administration’s Small Business Person of The Year for California in 2022 and his firm, VetPowered, LLC was selected as “Veteran Owned Small Business of the Year” in 2022.

Under his leadership, WFW has grown 350 times its original footprint in San Diego and has graduated and placed more than 1,125 veterans into advanced manufacturing careers with some of the largest manufacturers in the US such as Tesla, Boeing, Ford, Caterpillar and NVIDIA.

Mr. Luis y Prado is dedicated to scaling up and replicating Workshops for Warriors’ compressed advanced manufacturing training pipeline on a national level in order to “Rebuild America’s Advanced Manufacturing Force...with Veterans.” A cohesive advanced manufacturing training pipeline could virtually eliminate the shortage of skilled workers in the advanced manufacturing industry, increase military readiness, reduce cost, and create a stronger and safer America.

Hernán Luis y Prado is the inventor of record for over forty U.S. and international patents. He lives in San Diego, CA with his talented business partner and beautiful wife Rachel, and their two teenage children.



2970 Main Street
San Diego, CA 92113
Phone 619.550.1620

DATA AT A GLANCE

- Veteran Founded in 2008
- 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit School
- \$9.3M Operating Budget
- Post 9/11 GI Bill approved
- 94% Job Placement
- 87% of all donations go directly to programs
- \$60,000 Graduates Average Salary
- 1,125 Veterans, Transitioning Service Members and Wounded Warriors trained since 2011
- 12,794 Nationally-Recognized Credentials earned by our students
- Guidestar Platinum Certified
- Deloitte and The National Association of Manufacturing report that each \$1 invested in manufacturing will contribute \$2.74 to the economy
- 803,000 manufacturing jobs are currently unfilled due to a lack of skilled workers. By 2030, that number is expected to be 2.1M

Last updated 20230515

Watch WFW videos



Rebuilding American Manufacturing, One Veteran At A Time®

“Workshops for Warriors gave me a solid career path and future.”

Staff Sergeant Dwayne Smith, USMC Ret, Purple Heart recipient for injuries sustained in Operation Enduring Freedom

Headquartered in San Diego, Workshops for Warriors has created the only **advanced manufacturing training pipeline** for veterans and transitioning service members in the nation. Our mission is to provide a nationally scalable and repeatable model that enables veterans and transitioning service members to be trained in 16 weeks and placed in their chosen advanced manufacturing career field. Veterans and Transitioning Service Members are now earning a living wage as welders, fabricators, Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machinists, 3D Printers, CNC mill and CNC lathe operators, Machinery Repair Technicians, Robotic Programmers, Computer-aided designers and CNC programmers throughout America.

To improve capacity and long-term impact, WFW began a \$158 million capital campaign for a two-phase expansion to a new campus-style educational facility ten times its current size without interrupting our current training. Phase one of the expansion, scheduled for completion in 2024, will allow WFW to expand the train-the-trainer program and triple the number of veterans certified each year from 162 to nearly 500. Phase two of the expansion will generate a capacity for 2,500 graduates per year.

The need has never been greater and your support has never meant more for our troops, their families, and our entire country. America's servicemen and women have always been the first to fight, now it is our time to fight for all generations of service members. Join Workshops for Warriors' efforts to address America's dire need to rebuild its manufacturing capabilities. Please ask us about partnership opportunities at info@wfw.org.