

Gary LaBarbera Jr

Biography

Gary LaBarbera Jr. was born on Long Island, New York and was raised in a union household to a working Mother and Father who would become a leader in the labor movement. From a young age he was taught to value hard work and dedication. Upon graduation from High School in June of 2003 Gary enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserves.

In May 2004, on completion of entry level training, Gary was immediately mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following his return to New York in 2005, Gary obtained his Commercial Driver's License and began driving a truck while serving in reserve status. Not long after, in 2006 Gary was again mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When he resumed civilian employment in 2007, Gary began his career as a Teamster in Local 282. He drove trucks in the heavy construction industry in New York City until June 2011 when he was again mobilized and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

A year later, on return from deployment in June 2012, Gary resumed civilian employment as a Teamster in Local 282. His union appointed him to serve as Steward on a series of projects rebuilding the World Trade Center. In February 2022, Teamsters Local 282 appointed him to serve as Business Agent, a position he retained by election in 2024. While serving as Business Agent, in May 2023 the International Brotherhood of Teamsters appointed Gary as its Trade Advisor to Helmets to Hardhats where he works to create employment opportunities for Veterans working as Teamsters in the Building and Construction Trades.

In October 2023, Gary retired from the Marine Corps Reserves after serving his final years as Company First Sergeant, Company A, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment.