

Naomi Lawson

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - April 2024



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 10 years

Union: IBEW

Local: 347

City: Ankeny, IA

Bio

My name is Naomi Lawson, I am 35 years old. I'm a disabled veteran and an Inside Wireman journeyman for IBEW Local Union 347 and have been in the trade for 10 years. Before the electrical trade, I was an Avionics Mechanic in the Army. I maintained and repaired Blackhawk helicopters which entailed electrical work involving flight controls, communications, and other various avionics systems.

Following a deployment to Afghanistan, I lost my husband to suicide which sadly is an overwhelming common loss among veterans. I decided to return home and start over with our son. I wanted to set an example of independence and capability for him. After losing my husband, I wanted the ability to fix things at home to avoid being swindled by companies and to be financially comfortable. I wanted to be able to learn something I could pass on to my son.

Since I had done some electrical work on aircraft, I wanted to be an electrician. With no idea of how to achieve that, I attended a local community college, following the Electrical Construction Trades degree program. I met a relative of an electrician from IBEW LU 347 who explained the apprenticeship to me, so I applied. Joining the union and completing the



apprenticeship was a great choice for me and my family. The pay, insurance, and retirement plans have provided a comfortable life for me and my son. I take every chance I get to promote the trades, especially to other veterans and women who have interest but are unsure. I'm proud to say I was the one who helped many of these folks find their way into unions in the metro and even some in other states.

Why Naomi Was Nominated

When it comes to Naomi Lawson's electrical skills, she is a force to be reckoned with! If you want the job done right the first time she's the woman you call! She is a dedicated mother, veteran, mentor, teacher, journeyworker, and friend! Above all, she is an even better student. She is always willing to learn something new to perfect her craft! Meeting and seeing a woman like Naomi in the trades really inspires you to be the best for your local!