

The name of the painting is **“Healing Hands”** and it was painted with acrylic paint on white canvas 16 X 20

A little bit about me, my name is **Robert (Shrek) Harrell** I am a 43 year old **Army veteran** and retired **Firefighter/Paramedic/RN**. I am a self taught artist that enjoys all different types of mediums such as painting, drawing, wood burning and more. I am also a registered artist with the **Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma**. I am a husband to my wife Jessica to whom I have been married for 22 years this past June and father to 4 children.

Austin our oldest is 20 and is working to figure out his passion after graduating last year, Cheyanne whom my wife and I adopted after being her foster parents from 7 days old is now 15, Dakota 14 who is moderately autistic and enjoys drawing any form of the “Titanic”, and finally Brodie 12 who was our “SURPRISE” baby from my 6 month mid tour in Afghanistan as a contractor. I also have Pete who is my service animal and partner in crime and I am fairly certain he does not realize he is a dog.

I have always enjoyed drawing and realized from a young age that I was pretty good at it, so as a child I drew and painted for enjoyment and now since my Army and life journey in the medical field I find it helps me in an attempt to calm the internal storm. Due to a severe infection after a knee replacement I suffer from a TBI from sepsis and have a lot of memory issues, so I grasp to my art as it is familiar and constant. I have been honored to be apart of the creative forces program here in Jacksonville NC and have enjoyed creating pieces to donate to raise money to help my brothers and sisters in Arms.

I am unfortunately VERY familiar with the daily struggles and constant daily tortures of someone that suffers from PTSD and spend every day fighting against the monsters and demons that come with it. I know there is no cure, but pray they will find something to help me and my fellow veterans in my lifetime as I do not wish this torture on anyone, but I believe in this country and the men and women that serve it. My only hope for this piece, is that you embrace it and take it with you and let it be a constant reminder of all of us struggling and especially take it as a prayer for those Veterans that are no longer with us. “22 Veterans EVERY day take their own life” let this be their voice and remember them always.