

2009 Outstanding Participant Award

Cody N. Guerin

*American Indian Center of Arkansas, Inc.
Little Rock, Arkansas*

Mr. Guerin was a Sergeant in the US Army, Charlie Company M1-9 Infantry, and also with Delta Company 2-19. He was deployed to Iraq in 2004 and led his team unit in their search for enemy insurgents and their leaders. Many of his men were killed during those 15 months in Iraq. Mr. Guerin was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and received an Honorable Discharge as a disabled veteran. He experienced a long, difficult, and challenging transition to civilian life since he believed that he should not leave his unit and felt he needed to give more of himself to his country.

Unemployed, he lost his new house to the bank, moved in with his wife's parents, and was expecting a newborn. Determined to better his situation and provide for his family, he worked fulltime

as an auto mechanic, attended classes at night for a 64-week certification program at the Nashville Auto Diesel Mechanic School, and continued his counseling sessions for the PTSD through the Nashville VA Hospital.

In April 2008, Mr. Guerin received his diploma in Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology with High Performance Fabrication. He is employed in that special area and has also established himself as an outstanding custom fine airbrush artist for motorcycles.

