David L. Reed II is living proof that it’s a good idea to go back to school. A war veteran and grandfather, David sought education to build on skills he learned in the U.S. Army. He entered into service for his country in 1989 and served in support of both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield before leaving the service in 1997.

In addition to deploying for several tours of duty in the Persian Gulf, David also served an overseas tour in Korea, where his work included repairing electrical equipment.

Being in the military took a physical toll on David. With help from the Veterans Administration and support from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 15 in Hamilton/Fairfield, Ohio, he approached a classroom nearly 25 years after graduating from high school.

“It was hard to get in the right frame of mind to do it and to do the best that I could,” he says. David persevered through his studies and graduated from Brown Mackie College—Cincinnati in 2014 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology.

He quickly found employment in this thriving field, securing the position of Lab Technician at Ethicon Endo-Surgery in Blue Ash, Ohio. The company manufactures and sells medical equipment and is a part of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies.

David tests, calibrates, and maintains a new sedation system for sales demonstrations. His responsibilities include keeping detailed records and shipping medical equipment to clients across America and overseas.

“I enjoy being on the front line with a piece of new technology and working with a company like Johnson & Johnson,” he says.

At home, David advances the front line in education with the distinction of being the first in his family to graduate from college. He is currently working on a bachelor’s degree, setting an example for his kids and grandchild. He realized early in the first program of study that classroom jitters and any other concerns or questions gained prompt and pleasant attention from faculty and staff.

“The people at Brown Mackie College were just great!” says David. “I chose to gain more knowledge in the field of work I performed in the military. The Biomedical department was in my opinion one of the best in the area.”