

## 2021 Rick Hopcraft Memorial Veterans' Scholarship 2021 Recipient



**Nick Irwin**

A San Diego native, Nick is a decorated U.S. Navy Chief, a Navy reservist, and a PhD. Student, teaching assistant, and student representative at Chapman University. Nick is studying Education and Leadership Studies, with ambition to become a professor, and also to create substantial culture change in the United States Navy.

Nick served from 2002 – 2014, and again as an active reservist from 2018 – July 2020. He served in sea duty and two arduous overseas tours supporting joint military exercises. Nick earned multiple ribbons, medals and commendations, including three Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, two Battle “E” ribbons, five Good Conduct Medals, National Defense ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal with Mobilization, six Sea Service ribbons, four Overseas Service ribbons, Navy Recruiting Service ribbon, pistol sharpshooter ribbon, and rifle marksmanship ribbon.

Nick has obtained his Bachelor of Science in Sports and Health Sciences degree from American Military University in Charles Town, West Virginia, and Masters in Leadership Development (MLD) degree from Chapman University.

Nick has volunteered with 22 students struggling behaviorally and academically South Los Angeles. Nick designed a program to help each student feel valued, believed in, hopeful, and empowered by getting to know each student and tailoring learning experiences to their needs and preferences.

