



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

Edwin Feliciano, Jr.

GUSTAVO RIVERA May 15, 2017

| ISSUE: **VETERANS HALL OF FAME**



A lifelong Bronxite, Edwin Feliciano Jr. was born on May 31, 1991 to Puerto Rican parents. At a young age, Mr. Feliciano has already distinguished himself as an American hip-hop artist, a passionate anti-bullying activist, and an accomplished Marine Sergeant.

Shaped by a tragic accident that left his mother partially paralyzed when he was merely 11 years old, Mr. Feliciano has always strived to overcome any obstacle that stands in the way of his dreams. During the time of his mother's accident, he faced severe bullying at his middle school. As he transitioned into high school, he channeled his painful experience with

bullying into developing a new passion – rapping.

In 2012, Mr. Feliciano was finally able to open up to his family about the bullying he experienced through a music video for a song he composed, titled “Stay Strong.” He used music as an outlet to express himself and channel his anger and pain, instead of resorting to destructive behavior. Since then, he has used this method to connect with children and youth that might be facing bullying in their lives by performing at youth events and schools. To this day, Mr. Feliciano continues spreading his message through clean hip-hop music that focuses on anti-bullying, unity in the world, and holding onto dreams.

After high school, Mr. Feliciano bravely and valiantly joined the United States Marines. Since 2009, he has served honorably as a Marine Sergeant and has recently decided to reenlist to continue serving his country and community.