

AUTHOR / SPEAKER / COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

WILLIAM "TINY" LAWSON

FOUNDER, WARRIORS PROJECT • EST. 2010

AUTHOR OF LOCKED ON, REDEMPTION & CONTEMPT • MARINE CORPS VETERAN

“Call people by their name, not by their shame.”

FEATURED NATIONAL RECOGNITION

During the 2015 UNITE to Face Addiction rally in Washington, D.C., then-U.S. Senator Rob Portman publicly recognized William “Tiny” Lawson’s personal journey from incarceration to helping others.

OCTOBER 4, 2015

WATCH • 4:36

THE STORY

A former corrections inmate who later returned to the same facility as an officer, William “Tiny” Lawson brings firsthand experience to conversations about faith, recovery, accountability, second chances and human dignity. He founded the Warriors Project in 2010 to support people and families facing addiction, trauma and difficult life transitions.

CREDENTIALS

FOUNDATIONS
Peer Choice Award
“The Best Grass Roots Organization”
Presented to The Warriors Project

AUDIENCES

Churches, recovery gatherings, reentry programs, civic clubs, and community organizations.

AUTHOR / BOOKS

Author of Locked On, Redemption, and Contempt — Kindle and paperback.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (FOR PROGRAMS)

William “Tiny” Lawson is a Marine Corps veteran, author, and founder of the Warriors Project. Formerly incarcerated, he later served as a corrections officer at the same facility. Drawing on firsthand experience in recovery, reentry, and community outreach, he speaks about accountability, human dignity, peer support, and the power of belonging.

SPEAKING • CHURCHES • RECOVERY & REENTRY • MEDIA
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SIGNATURE PRESENTATIONS

FROM INMATE TO OFFICER

Suggested audience: Corrections professionals, reentry organizations, workforce development groups, recovery communities, faith organizations, and criminal justice conferences.

William “Tiny” Lawson shares his firsthand journey from incarceration to serving as a corrections officer at a facility where he had previously been incarcerated. Drawing on his experiences on both sides of the institutional system, he explores personal accountability, recovery, second chances, and the importance of treating people with dignity.

His story invites audiences to consider how professional responsibilities and lived experience can inform a more human understanding of incarceration, reentry, and the possibility of personal change.

Participants will be invited to:

- Examine how personal accountability, recovery, and second chances intersect in the reentry experience.
- Consider how lived experience can inform the way corrections professionals and community organizations understand the individuals they serve.
- Reflect on the importance of dignity, consistent expectations, and professional boundaries within correctional and reentry environments.

This presentation draws on firsthand experience and personal testimony; it does not claim independently demonstrated program outcomes.

LOOK BEYOND THE LABEL

Suggested audience: Criminal justice professionals, social service organizations, peer-support workers, educators, prevention programs, recovery organizations, and community leaders.

Drawing on his experiences in corrections, recovery, and community outreach, William “Tiny” Lawson explores how labels and assumptions can obscure the individual circumstances of people experiencing trauma, addiction, instability, or involvement with the justice system.

The presentation introduces the importance of examining individual circumstances rather than assuming that a person’s legal classification or presenting behavior tells their entire story.

It also considers the role of community outreach, lived experience, and early prevention in reaching people before their circumstances become more difficult.

The presentation draws on two threads of Lawson’s work: The Misclassified Victim, his developing perspective and research inquiry, and Downstream, the Warriors Project’s historical youth-prevention initiative.

Participants will be invited to:

- Examine how labels and assumptions can influence attitudes toward people involved in justice, recovery, and social service systems.
- Consider why individual circumstances, trauma histories, and barriers to progress deserve careful attention alongside personal accountability.
- Explore questions about prevention, community collaboration, and opportunities for appropriate peer involvement.

This presentation draws on firsthand experience and developing areas of inquiry. It does not establish that particular individuals have been misclassified or claim independently demonstrated program outcomes.

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THE BROKEN LEADING THE BROKEN: THE ROLE OF BELONGING IN COMMUNITY RECOVERY

Suggested audience: Recovery organizations, faith communities, peer-support professionals, and community service providers.

Drawing on more than a decade of firsthand community outreach through the Warriors Project, William “Tiny” Lawson explores how belonging, personal dignity, accountability, and lived experience shaped a grassroots recovery community.

Participants will be invited to:

- Examine how language and labels can influence the way people experiencing difficult life circumstances are treated.
- Consider the practical strengths and limitations of lived-experience peer support.
- Reflect on the importance of healthy boundaries and sustainability for those serving others.

This presentation draws on firsthand experience and community history; it does not claim independently demonstrated program outcomes.

WORKING WITH BILL

Formats: a 45–60-minute presentation, an interactive workshop, or a panel discussion — in person or virtual.

Every talk is shaped to the audience in the room: churches and recovery communities, corrections and reentry professionals, employers and workforce groups, schools, and conferences.

Visual materials: Approved historical photographs and brief visual materials may be available by advance arrangement. Every presentation can also be delivered without slides.

Books: Locked On can be made available for a book table or signing when an organizer wishes.

Arrangements: speaking fees and travel are discussed directly with the organizer; gifted and reduced-fee engagements are considered individually.

HOST INTRODUCTION

Please welcome William “Tiny” Lawson, a Marine Corps veteran, author of Locked On, and founder of the Warriors Project.

After experiencing incarceration, he later returned to the same facility as a corrections officer, giving him a rare firsthand perspective on recovery, reentry, accountability, and second chances.

Today, he shares what he has learned about human dignity, community, and why we should call people by their name—not by their shame.

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MEDIA & DOCUMENTATION

AUTHENTIC PHOTOGRAPHS • RECORDED SPEECH • VERIFIED AWARD WORDING



FOUNDATIONS PEER CHOICE AWARD

“The Best Grass Roots Organization”

Presented to The Warriors Project
Foundations — A Place for Education & Recovery

The original plaque recognizes the Warriors Project for helping people reach their fullest potential and demonstrating that recovery is possible. The plaque does not show a date.

A documented award, not a fabricated endorsement.

TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK (TBN) — OHIO AND CALIFORNIA

William “Tiny” Lawson participated in TBN productions in Akron, Ohio, and California, where his personal testimony and the work of the Warriors Project were filmed. In a demonstration of the extraordinary support within the Warriors Project family, its members raised approximately $5,000 in just one month to help send Lawson and fellow community members to California for the production. Their collective effort reflected one of the Warriors Project’s guiding principles: the broken leading the broken.

THREE RECORDINGS WORTH WATCHING

01 **RECOGNITION • SENATOR ROB PORTMAN** — WATCH ■
UNITE to Face Addiction rally | October 4, 2015
Portman names “Tiny Bill Lawson”; begin at approximately 4:36.

02 **SPEAKING SAMPLE • WILLIAM LAWSON (“TINY”) — WARRIORS PROJECT RALLY** — WATCH ■
Warriors Project rally | August 14, 2016 | 1:43
Watch Bill address a live audience: nextstepsuccess.org/speaker-media/

03 **GROWING EPIDEMIC: THE WARRIORS PROJECT** — WATCH ■
Warriors Project | January 2, 2018 | 6:59
A historical look at the mission and community. Statistics are dated.





REAL PHOTOGRAPHS • REAL HISTORY

Church speaking appearance and a cherished family baptism photograph. LOCKED ON is dedicated to Lawson’s daughter.

SHARE THE WALL — EVERY NAME MATTERS

“Our Fallen Warriors honors the lives of people we have loved and lost. We invite families and communities to visit the memorial, share its message, and help preserve the names and memories of those who mattered.”

Families may request to add a name at no cost, with family permission. Story-sharing requires separate permission.

Visit Our Fallen Warriors → hopenotchains.website/names-we-carry

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