

Jake Harriman

Founder, Nuru International and Founder, More Perfect Union

Jake Harriman is the founder of Nuru International, a US-based social venture with a mission to eradicate extreme poverty and violence in some of the most fragile regions of the world. Following tours of duty as a marine platoon commander in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, Harriman enrolled at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. It was there that he was inspired to found Nuru, based on his experiences coming face-to-face with the effects of extreme poverty in war-torn regions overseas. Nuru was built on the belief that many 21st century ills can only be eradicated through a strategy that includes ending extreme poverty. Since 2009, Nuru has impacted more than 250,000 people — empowering them with meaningful choices for creating a better future for themselves.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Harriman opens up about his experiences working to make a difference in the world — beginning as a marine and later founding and leading change-making organizations. When speaking to groups, he shares strategies to equip leaders to take charge of their own destinies and communities, and unlock innovative approaches to age-old problems. Harriman inspires each person to think about how they can leverage their unique experiences and talents to serve others, and spurs them to action in order to better their communities, and the world around them.

In addition to making a global impact through Nuru, Harriman has now turned his attention to helping protect the American Democratic experiment. In 2020, he founded More Perfect Union (MPU) to disrupt and reform the current political system, heal our divided nation, and give the government back to the American people. Key early components of MPU's 10-year plan include creating a reform-minded county-first fulcrum in the U.S. Senate, building a nationwide veteran-led movement for unity and reform, and passing new legislation to reform the electoral system.

A decorated combat veteran, Harriman has been honored by the White House as a “Champion of Change,” selected as a Dalai Lama “Unsung Hero of Compassion,” and featured in profile pieces by *Forbes*, *The Huffington Post*, ABC News, and more. He is also a graduate of the Presidential Leadership Scholars Class of 2015, and has served as a senior advisor at the McChrystal Group since 2021.

Born in rural West Virginia, Harriman attended the U.S. Naval Academy before serving seven and a half years as an Infantry and Force Recon Platoon Commander in the Marine Corps. He led four operational deployments, including counter-terror operations in the Horn of Africa and two tours of combat in Iraq. Harriman's experiences in combat convinced him that the “War on Terror” would not be won on the battlefield alone — and that the coordinates of someone's birthplace should not dictate the opportunities they are presented with throughout the course of their life. Jake left military life to enroll at Stanford where, with the assistance of roughly 30 peers and professors, investments from Silicon Valley, and donations from around the world, he moved to Kenya and founded Nuru International.

From 2017 to 2019, Harriman helped draft, introduce, and work to pass groundbreaking new legislation called the Global Fragility Act of 2019, which will equip America with new authorities and resources to prevent conflict and stabilize some of the most fragile regions of the world that pose a growing threat to US and global security.