



WOUNDED WARRIORS SHARE STORIES

NICE TO SEE YOU.

I DIDN'T KNOW AS A KID THAT I WAS GOING TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY.

MY BIG MOTIVATOR TO SERVE WAS ACTUALLY WATCHING THE TOWERS FALL ON NINE-ELEVEN.

NINE-ELEVEN HAPPENED A FEW MONTHS AFTER I JOINED.

I JOINED BECAUSE THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO.

MY TRUCK WAS STRUCK BY A VERY LARGE ANTI-ARMOR IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE.

AND WHEN I WAKE UP, I'M OUTSIDE OF THE VEHICLE LAYING IN THE SAND.

I'M MISSING MY RIGHT LEG BELOW THE KNEE.

I WASN'T MISSING ANY LIMBS; I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PHYSICAL SCARS. SO I WAS A LITTLE HESITANT, BUT ONCE I GOT INVOLVED MORE, I REALIZED THAT WE SUFFER FROM THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF THE WAR.

SO THEN THE DOCTOR SAID, YOU KNOW, THAT THEY BELIEVED THAT I HAD T-B-I. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THIS WAS, AND THEY SAID IT WAS A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT HAS HONORED AND EMPOWERED ALL OF US—REGARDLESS OF OUR INJURIES.

THEY FLEW ME TO VAIL, COLORADO TO DO ADAPTIVE SKIING. I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT WITHOUT WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT, AND WITHOUT THE DONORS AND ALL OF THE PARTNERS THAT WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT HAS.

THEY'VE GIVEN ME EDUCATION. THEY'VE GIVEN ME A SMILE. THEY'VE GIVEN ME THIS HUGE EXTENDED FAMILY THAT, WITHOUT THEM, OTHERWISE I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE.

I'VE CONNECTED WITH FELLOW VETERANS THAT I'VE SERVED WITH IN IRAQ. I'VE CONNECTED WITH FELLOW VETERANS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW AND MADE NEW FRIENDSHIPS.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT SERVED ME IN SUCH A WAY THAT IF I COULD JUST SERVE ONE PERSON, THEN I WILL HAVE DONE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT A GREAT JUSTICE.

THEY HAVE EMPOWERED ME TO BETTER MYSELF BY NOT GIVING ME A HANDOUT, BUT BY GIVING ME A HAND UP.

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT THEY'VE GIVEN ME I WOULD STILL BE STUCK ON MY COUCH WONDERING WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITH MYSELF, LITERALLY.

THEY DIDN'T JUST TELL ME I COULD DO STUFF, THEY SHOWED ME.

WITHOUT THEM, I WOULD PROBABLY STILL BE TRYING TO TRANSITION FROM SERGEANT CRUTCH TO LISA CRUTCH. THEY'VE HELPED ME TO DO THAT. IF WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT DOES NOTHING ELSE FOR ME—IF THEY DO NOTHING ELSE FOR ME—THE THINGS THAT THEY'VE DONE THUS FAR, WILL SUSTAIN ME FOR A LIFETIME.