Department of Defense

37th Annual Disability Awards Ceremony

Exemplary Components and Military Departments and Outstanding Service Members and Civilian Employees with Disabilities

Pentagon Auditorium
Washington, D.C. 20301

October 5, 2017
2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.
DAN NEVINS
Warrior. Speaker. Teacher.
Wounded Warrior Project Advocate

Dan Nevins has led an extensive career with the United States Army National Guard, joining right after high school as an enlisted paratrooper stationed in Germany. During his enlistment, he spent four years at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he graduated from the Noncommissioned Officers Academy as a distinguished honor graduate. Shortly after, he began his professional career with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a sales representative.

His job was put on hold in February 2004 when Mr. Nevins deployed to Balad, Iraq, as a squad leader. Later that year, an improvised explosive device detonated beneath his vehicle, resulting in a traumatic brain injury and the amputation of his left leg below the knee. After several years of recurring infections and countless surgeries, Mr. Nevins chose to surgically remove his right leg as well, making him a bilateral amputee.

Following his initial injury, Mr. Nevins spent 18 months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in recovery. In his first days there, he received a backpack from Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), a care package that would greatly impact his personal and professional life. Following medical retirement in 2006, Mr. Nevins relocated to Jacksonville, Florida, where he joined the staff of the PGA TOUR.

Mr. Nevins' desire to help other Service members continued to grow following retirement from the military, which was evident by his increased involvement with WWP. At the 2008 Courage Awards & Benefit Dinner, he received the highest award bestowed by Wounded Warrior Project – the George C. Lang Award for Courage. He credits the nonprofit for his successful rehabilitation, positive attitude, and most importantly his passion for helping his fellow warriors in any capacity.

In 2009, Dan decided to join the WWP team, serving in several key positions within the organization, but most recently as director of the Warriors Speak team.

Dan embarked on a new career path as a certified yoga instructor in order to share the practice with fellow Service members and civilians. Today, Mr. Nevins continues to serve his fellow injured warriors, and the mission of WWP, by traveling the country to share his story, his personal accomplishments, and his passion for yoga.
37th ANNUAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DISABILITY AWARDS CEREMONY

Thursday, October 5, 2017 - 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Pentagon Auditorium

Presentation of Colors

National Anthem

Invocation

Welcome
Clarence A. Johnson
Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity

Remarks
Anthony M. Kurta
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense
for Personnel and Readiness

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
René C. Bardorf
Senior VP, Wounded Warrior Project

Keynote Address
Dan Nevins
Warrior. Speaker. Teacher.
Wounded Warrior Project Advocate

Presentation of Individual and Component Awards
Anthony M. Kurta
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense
for Personnel and Readiness

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements
Randy D. Cooper
Director, DoD Disability Policy and Programs
Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity