

*Department of Defense*



# 37<sup>TH</sup> 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.



**37<sup>TH</sup> 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*

