

Wounded Warriors Family Support Presents Second Truck to MOPH Patriot

On Wednesday, October 4, MOPH National Commander Neil Van Ess and other Patriots from the National HQ and Chapters 353 and 1775, joined COL John Folsom and Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) at the Breakers Bar and Grill in Herndon, VA for the presentation of a specially adapted, 2017 Ford F-150 Truck to Patriot Daniel Barnes. This is the second truck this year to be provided by WWFS to a Member of the MOPH.



In preparation for award of the Purple Heart Truck, MOPH called for all Departments to nominate deserving Purple Heart recipients who had suffered the loss of limbs to receive the keys to the truck at the end of the Purple Heart Truck Run. Although the truck was presented to Patriot Marshall Kennedy during the MOPH National Convention, the runner-up was Patriot Daniel Barnes, Commander of Missouri MOPH Chapter 140, who was nominated by the Region II Commander. Wounded in Iraq in 2006 by an RPG when his patrol was attacked, Patriot Barnes suffered bi-lateral, above the knee amputations of both legs.



In September, 2017, WWFS informed MOPH that they had a second truck this year, sponsored by Microsoft Corporation, which they wanted to present to a deserving Purple Heart recipient and asked MOPH for a recommendation. As the runner-up, it was only natural that MOPH would suggest Patriot Barnes. After reading his biography, Microsoft agreed and they flew Patriot Barnes and his wife Gretchen to Washington, DC for a special key presentation ceremony.

Patriot Barnes was born in Little Falls, NY in 1977 and joined the US Army in 1995, becoming a Combat Engineer. He served his first duty station at Ft. Hood TX. From here Dan deployed to Kuwait for 6 months. After this tour, he completed a year-long assignment in Korea and returned to Ft. Hood TX. During a later assignment to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, he volunteered with the St. Robert Fire and Rescue until he deployed to Iraq April 2003. He returned in 2004, and his leadership skills with the fire department quickly raised him through the ranks to Lieutenant before he deployed with "The Fighting Fifth" again November 2005 as a Staff Sergeant and Squad Leader.

On September 4th, 2006, ten months into his second combat deployment, Dan's life dramatically changed. During a nighttime route clearance patrol searching for IED's, his unit was attacked by Rocket-Propelled Grenades, causing critical injuries and severe damage to both to Dan's legs. Barely clinging to life, he receive bi-lateral above the knee amputations to his legs nearly to the pelvis. Upon stabilization, Dan flew to Landstuhl, Germany hospital before landing in the Intensive Care Unit at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX. Despite multiple surgeries and physical therapy with the most talented medical personnel and latest technologies in prosthetics, Dan was unable to overcome the pain of weight bearing on his severely short amputated legs. To this day he remains wheelchair bound. The specially adapted truck provided by Microsoft and WWFS will give Dan the mobility he needs to be out of the house and on the road.

With this event, WWFS has now provided three trucks and made numerous donations to the MOPH Scholarship Fund. MOPH cannot possibly thank WWFS enough, and especially its founder and President, COL John Folsom, for their generosity and dedication to the Order. WWFS – WE SALUTE AND THANK YOU!