



A DECADE OF SERVICE.



A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT.

BRETT MILLER

When you're young and impressionable, in junior high school, and you watch in horror as your family home burns to the ground in less than 20 minutes, it forever changes you.

“From that moment on, I determined in my mind to fight fires,” says Brett Miller. “By age 16, I was a member of the Williams, Oregon Volunteer Fire Department. It was the beginning of a 17-year career.”

In 1998, Brett joined the Army National Guard. He says he felt right at home because the high-tension, adrenaline-filled environments for the military and fighting wild land fires are very similar.

Deployed to Iraq in 2004, Brett barely made it home alive.

“I was conducting convoy security operations in a Humvee gun truck when a roadside bomb went off six feet from the door. I smelled sulfur and the sky went black. It all goes blank for me from there.”

The impact blasted Brett with such force that he suffered a massive traumatic brain injury (TBI), brain bleed, right retinal detachment, blown out right ear, nine fractured teeth, severe short- and long-term memory loss and cognitive deficits from the brain injury that rendered him hemiplegic – paralyzed in his left side.

“During my recovery, I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),” says Brett. “For me, PTSD can best be described as a fit of mental rage. But you fight it. I believe my attitude has been my greatest accomplishment – knowing the physical and mental injuries will always be the same. Regardless, I’ve achieved a greater understanding of myself and how to overcome physical challenges. PTSD is my most difficult challenge.”

Brett’s positive attitude was forged through a crucible of hospital beds, multiple surgeries, endless rehabbing, and lots of time to think. He spend over five years as an inpatient or outpatient.

“Every day in life you fight your own personal fires. My biggest motivation is somebody telling me I can’t do something. Through my involvement with WWP, I want to show other warriors that ‘yes, you can!’”

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DUTY ★ HONOR ★ COURAGE ★ COMMITMENT ★ INTEGRITY ★ COUNTRY ★ SERVICE

