

A promise kept inspired Wounded Warrior Deven Schei

By Robert Martin 30 September 2018



Deven Schei, of the Wounded Warrior Project takes a question from the Director of PKSOI Col. Michael Rauhut during National Disability Employment Awareness Month Observance, Bliss Hall, Oct. 9.

Wounded Warrior highlights month of attention to Disability Employment

Deven Schei, of the Wounded Warrior Project, grew up in a military family. His father and his brother both served in the United States Army. His brother, Erik, took part in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and suffered a catastrophic injury that rendered him quadriplegic.

Promising to finish the job his brother started, Deven joined the Army.

Schei was serving in Afghanistan, as an engineer, escorting a convoy, when his HUMMV was struck by four 80mm rockets - sending him home from Afghanistan. What followed was a painful recovery that included more than 17 surgeries.

I lost a portion of my left ear, a portion of my left thigh, and had shrapnel all over my body," said Schei. "I had a slipped disc, cartilage missing in my back and knees, tendinitis, loss of eye sight in my left eye, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury."

Even with the injuries he sustained, Schei said that they were not the biggest challenges he faced.

"My greatest challenge was not being with my battle buddies," he said. "Leaving them in Afghanistan was the hardest thing I have ever had to do."

Throughout his journey, he has found inspiration from his family and from the numerous injured service members he's met who continue to live productive lives.

Deven Schei represented those injured service members and others managing disabilities when he spoke at the National Disability Employment Awareness Month Observance here in Bliss Hall, Oct. 9.

The Army War College, Carlisle Barracks and Dunham Army Health Clinic join the nation in observing National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 1 - 31 October of each year. The awareness event represents America's commitment to ensuring equal opportunity for all citizens.