

Camp Patriot Mt Rainier Climb 2011 July 9-14th

Three Veterans are the Hero's of this climb

Gilbert Magallanes (Ret) 5th Special Forces - Master Sergeant Gil Magallanes Jr is a retired 46 year old with 21 years of active duty service as a Green Beret in the United States Army. Gil served in both the Gulf War and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. On December 5, 2001 Gil was injured by friendly fire when a 2000 pound bomb was mistakenly dropped on the position of his team while they were guarding the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai.

Gil had sustained multiple injuries to include an open traumatic brain injury with partial loss of his skull and brain matter leaving him with permanent brain damage, cognitive, seizure and migraine disorders; vision impairment with left field blindness; closed C1/C2 & L5 fractures (neck & back), multiple organ trauma and the loss of 2 fingers and part of his left hand with nerve damage.

After a lot of therapy & hard work Gil was able to overcome significant hurdles related to the severity of his injuries to find him back in competition. In June 2008, Gil began once again to pursue his passion for archery and also started to take up other sports such as javelin and triathlon. He won a gold medal in javelin at the State Games of the West in Colorado and completed his first sprint triathlon and has not looked back! Since then he has completed the 1.2 mile swim legs of the 2008, 2009 & 2010 San Diego Triathlon challenge relay, the 2008, 2009 & 2010 Silverman Half-Distance Triathlon relay and the 2009 Augusta, GA Ironman relay. And he didn't stop there... Gil finished his first 70.3 distance triathlon in 2010, participated in the 620 mile Million Dollar Challenge for CAF & was named Tennessee State Champion for traditional archery!!

Although Gil is currently in Stage 3 Chronic Kidney Failure (eventually requiring a kidney transplant) & is currently in the hospital for therapy for his traumatic brain injury he hasn't stopped training!! His current hospitalization will cover January 2011 to an estimated discharge date of August 2011 (6 months) he makes his cycling a part of his therapy and finds time to participate in weekly tandem rides. He has several events planned for this year including climbing Mt. Rainer with Camp Patriot in July. .



Gilbert Magallanes (Ret) 5th Special Forces

Eric Cowan (Army) – My name is Eric Andrew Cowin and I am 26 years old. I grew up in Grove, Oklahoma and joined the army in 2003. I was a Staff Sergeant Squad leader on my second deployment when I was wounded. My unit was 2nd brigade 1st ID and we deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was nine months in the deployment when I was on patrol and my vehicle was hit with an IED. It was June 9th when I was hit and medevac'd out of there. I arrived at Brooke Army Medical Center on the 15th of June and left foot was amputated two days later on the 17th. I enjoy doing activities outdoors mostly. I like to surf, scuba dive and am looking forward to challenging myself with the climb.



Eric Cowan (Army)

Derrick Ford (Army) - My name is Derrick James Ford. I was born September 22, 1987 in Long Beach, CA to Maria Free and James Ford. I grew up and was raised in Southern California by my mother, who also raised my 3 little sisters, Natilie, Amber, and Leighanne.

I signed up to join the US Army a few days after turning 17, but since I hadn't finished high school, I was forced to wait. 3 weeks after my high school graduation on July 5th, 2005, I enlisted and swore in to become an infantryman. I took my first airplane flight from LAX to Atlanta for training at Ft Benning, Georgia. I graduated from basic and AIT October 21st, 2005 before being stationed at Ft Drum, NY with the 10th Mountain Division, 4-31st Infantry.

After months of training in the cold of upstate New York, I was deployed to Southern Iraq in August of 2006. What was supposed to be a year-long deployment turned into 15 months South of Baghdad. After a few losses, we returned in October of 2007. The night I returned from overseas is when I met my wife, Michelle, through mutual friends.

Although we were only dating, Michelle felt it necessary to move with me to Ft Lewis, WA in March 2008. I was assigned to 2nd Infantry Division, 1-17th Infantry with their recon platoon. It was a new unit, with a strong future ahead. I married my wife May 4th, 2009 shortly after finding out that Michelle was pregnant.

We deployed to Southern Afghanistan in July 2009. Just a few weeks later, on August 14th, 2009, while on a route reconnaissance mission, the Stryker vehicle I was in, rolled over a

pressure plate IED. I only recall dust being thrown everywhere and an incredible pain in my feet. After a quick assessment, I crawled out of the top of vehicle and attempted to pull security before eventually being put onto a litter where our medic reached me. My memory fades in and out for the few hours after the blast, before finally I'm in a plane on my way to Germany.

When in Germany, doctors tell me my feet were simply broken which I took as good news. I don't remember much about Germany other than taking some memory tests and telling my family over the phone that I was okay. I was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC where they told me that they would need to amputate my left leg. I fought with the idea, even after my twins were born on September 9th, 2009. Eventually I agreed to the amputation and on October 9th, 2009, the operation was done. My life changed forever.

I have made it my mission since I have started walking again that I would make the most of my life and do everything I can to prove to myself that I am not disabled, but only wounded. I hope this climb up Mt Rainier will be another step I take of a long line of adventures in my life.



Derrick Ford (Army)

Two film crews will be joining the climb:

- Christian Broadcast Network 700 club <http://www.cbn.com/700club/>
 - Lee Webb - http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/Staff/lee_webb.aspx
 - Tyler James - <http://www.cbn.com/Authors/cbnnews/Tyler-James/>
- Sovereign Sportsman <http://www.sovereignsportsman.com/>

Along with them there will be about 20 people on the Mountain as support:

- First Special Forces
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Special_Forces_Group_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Special_Forces_Group_(United_States))
- Guides from RMI <http://www.rmiguides.com/>
- IMG <http://www.mountainguides.com/rainier.shtml>.

Kick-Off Dinner banquet will be on July 9th

Please join us for an inspirational dinner hosted by the Seattle Seahawks
<http://www.seahawks.com/community/camp-patriot.html>.