

DANIELLE GREEN



.....
“I HAVE ALWAYS FELT LIKE I COULD BE MYSELF AT WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT EVENTS. I COULD CHOOSE TO WEAR MY PROSTHETIC OR NOT, AND NOT BE STARED AT. WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT ALLOWED ME TO FEEL STRONG, BRAVE, AND CONFIDENT IN WHO I AM AS A FEMALE WARRIOR AND A COMBAT VETERAN.”
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Growing up on the south side of Chicago, Danielle Green’s grandmother always encouraged her to “get out and be somebody.” At first, it seemed like basketball would be the way she’d accomplish that mission. She had to take two trains and a bus just to attend school, but she excelled academically and athletically. She ended up at a powerhouse division-1 women’s basketball program, Notre Dame, where she was a four-year starter and currently sits as the 17th-leading scorer in program history. In the basketball world, she had certainly gotten out and become somebody.

But after graduating from Notre Dame, Danielle felt she could do more to serve others – so she joined the U.S. Army as a military police officer. In 2004, while on a 115-degree rooftop in Baghdad, Iraq, she was injured by a rocket-propelled grenade and lost her left arm. As if that isn’t bad enough, Danielle was left-handed. She had to re-learn how to do almost everything. Thankfully, she wouldn’t have to do it alone. Shortly after she was injured, Danielle was visited in the hospital by Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) and given a backpack full of comfort items.

“As I laid in bed, I felt alone, bewildered, and scared about the unknown,” remembers Danielle. “That backpack meant the world to me. From that day on, I knew I was not alone, and that Wounded Warrior Project would provide comfort in my life.”

After that first introduction, Danielle participated in a variety of WWP events for warriors recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The one she remembers most vividly was a New York Giants game where she was honored on the field and met NFL legends Kurt Warner and Tiki Barber.

“Those events made me feel loved and not forgotten,” says Danielle. “Wounded Warrior Project was there to provide support and love and reunite me with other soldiers. It was a beautiful thing.”

With WWP by her side, and her never-give-up attitude still firmly intact, Danielle embarked on her next calling, and the next group of people she felt she could “be somebody” for – her fellow veterans. She went back to school and got her Master’s degree in Community Counseling, ultimately using her skills to work for the Veterans Administration (VA) to help warriors transition back into civilian life after service.

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Danielle has overcome many challenges in her life, including losing her husband to a sudden heart attack in 2011. But as with every other challenge she's faced, her indomitable spirit and passion for serving others have carried her through. She's always known she was on the right path, and she's never wavered from it. Now, that path has brought her to Wounded Warrior Project, where she will have the opportunity to continue saving and changing the lives of her fellow veterans by sharing her story with audiences across the nation.

"I'm excited to have the chance to connect with even more warriors by sharing my experience," says Danielle. "There are still so many warriors out there suffering, and I believe the best way to reach them is to share stories like mine, so they realize the Wounded Warrior Project community is the perfect place for them to find love and acceptance."



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