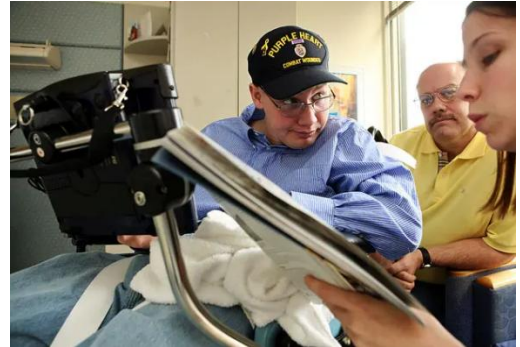


Eric Edmundson

Sergeant Eric Edmundson is a U.S. Army veteran whose vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device (IED) during his deployment near the Iraq/Syria border on October 2, 2005, when he was just 25 years old. The shrapnel of an improvised explosive device (IED) that detonated under his vehicle ruptured his spleen, broke his patella, fractured his vertebrae and caused him to sustain a traumatic brain injury. While waiting to be transported to a hospital, Sergeant Edmundson was without a pulse for 30 minutes, causing him to also sustain an anoxic brain injury. From Germany, Sergeant Edmundson was sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to recover from his injuries. As a result of his service, Eric's life altering injuries included permanent damage from the anoxic brain injury which ultimately ended his ability to speak or walk. Eric was medically retired from the Army in 2007 and received the Purple Heart due to his injuries.



While doctors initially warned Eric's family that he would remain in a vegetative state, they refused to accept that diagnosis. They fought to get Eric a spot at the Rehabilitative Institute of Chicago where he began a long, and often painful rehabilitation program. Despite these challenges over the last 20 years, Eric continues to lead a full and meaningful life through enhanced medical technology, therapy, his specially adapted home, and the support of friends, family and community in New Bern, North Carolina. Eric's wife, and his parents serve as his full-time caregivers to allow him to still do the things he enjoys, including going to the gym, doing yoga, painting, hunting, and spending quality time with his two children. Eric attends church with his family on Sundays and works to support and encourage his children's interests. Proceeds from the paintings he creates are given to help his fellow veterans have meaningful and healing experiences.

Families of catastrophically disabled veterans like Sergeant Edmundson's would directly benefit from this benefits expansion, by allowing veterans like Eric to live comfortably and thrive in exchange for their service in uniform. October 2, 2025, marked Eric's 20-year Alive Day.

