



VA Veterans Day Parade Fact Sheet

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Tim Hernandez United States Army Sergeant

Tim Hernandez, a U.S. Army Calvary Scout, served in both Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in Iraq from 2001 to 2006. He was a Section Sergeant in charge of a small squad that conducted reconnaissance and search-and-destroy missions. During his time fighting the Global War on Terror, Hernandez was wounded three times, with the final injury ending his hopes of an Army career.

Hernandez was first wounded by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in the leg, but the fragments were removed and he was back with his unit after only three months of treatment. The second time he was injured he was hit by a white-phosphorous Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG), taking damage to his face, arm, back and hip. A few members of his squad were being held back by enemy fire, so he decided to have his unit go and retrieve them safely. They succeeded in rescuing their men but not before Hernandez was injured by another RPG. He sustained nerve damage from the attack and has been through several surgeries. After putting seven years into the Army, he was very disappointed to know that he could not continue to serve in the military.

Hernandez received a Purple Heart for his injuries sustained during his service, as well as the Bronze Star of Valor, which is awarded to those display an act of combat heroism. Currently he is busy working and raising his rather large family of five children.

Hernandez is a patient at the Phoenix VA Health Care System where he receives care for his blunt force trauma to the head. He describes his VA health care as "beautiful".

He says his kids are thrilled again that their dad is being honored as a VA Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshall. He currently resides in Florence.



The Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which is part of the Phoenix VA Health Care System, has been serving veterans in Maricopa County since 1951. We currently have 130 inpatient beds for medical and surgical patients, 80 beds for nursing home patients and 48 inpatient beds for mental health patients. We are honored to serve our veterans who have paid the price for us to enjoy our freedoms.