



VA Veterans Day Parade Fact Sheet

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Kevin Ivory United States Navy Hospital Corpsman

Kevin Ivory joined the U.S. Navy in 2004, shortly after two semesters in college, as a hospital corpsman. After joining, Ivory was deployed not to a ship at sea, but to Camp Pendleton at a field medical school to become a combat medic. Ivory was somewhat surprised at the assignment with the Marines, but took the challenge head on. After completing field medical school, he was deployed to Iraq in July of 2005 and served there for two deployments.

On August 31, 2006, Ivory encountered the first of three roadside bomb attacks while on patrol. In the first, he was riding in a HMMWV when he was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device or IED with three others in the vehicle. The following day, Ivory was riding in another HMMWV and was once again hit by another IED. After two days of consecutive IED hits, Ivory was allowed seven days of rest, allowing him to try to recuperate from the two explosions.

On the first day back from his seven days off, Ivory was once again riding in an HMMWV when his squad noticed insurgents placing more IED's on the road from a distance. The squad moved forward, and stopped, unknowingly parking directly over three IED's. Two of the marines in the HMMWV left the vehicle to pursue the insurgents while Ivory moved to the driver's side, with another soldier remaining in the HMMWV with him.

Ivory then began to drive the HMMWV down a large embankment when three 155mm IED's went off, spraying Ivory with shrapnel and causing the Marine in the passenger seat to lose his arm in the explosion that launched the vehicle some ten feet into the air. Ivory, himself slipping in and out of consciousness, maintained a tourniquet on the Marine until a medivac was able to arrive. Due to Ivory's actions and quick thinking, that Marine is alive today.

Ivory suffered mild Traumatic Brain Injury, or TBI, and is receiving therapy at the Phoenix VA Health Care System to help fully regain his cognitive thinking and his retention abilities.

For his service in the Navy, Ivory was awarded three Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, one with valor, the Purple Heart, an Iraqi Campaign Medal, and a Combat Achievement Medal. He left the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman Second Class. He currently resides in Phoenix and works at the University of Phoenix.



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.