

Heath Calhoun

2010, 2014 U.S. Paralympian
2014 Paralympic Silver Medalist



Hometown: Grundy, VA
Resides in: Clarksville, TN
Trains in: Aspen, CO
Birth date: 6/29/1979



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Retired Staff Sgt. Heath Calhoun has gone from the battlefield to the ski slopes, all in the name of representing his country – first in the military and now as a proud member of Team USA.

At a young age, Calhoun earned respect for the U.S. military. His father served in Vietnam and his grandfather in World War II. In 1999, Heath made the decision to carry on his family's dedication to the military and to the service of his country when he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

While deployed in Iraq, Calhoun served as Squad Leader for the 101st Airborne Division. He was severely injured when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his Humvee in 2003, resulting in the amputation of both his legs above the knee.

During rehabilitation and learning to walk on prosthetics, Calhoun learned about the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) which provides programs and support for injured service members. Through the program he was introduced to adaptive skiing.

"After my accident, when I learned to ski, it was the first time I felt whole again, like I had my legs back. I could ski across and down the slopes just like everyone else could. I could get on and off the same lifts. It's an awesome feeling of freedom. It was a feeling I missed. That's what I love most about it."

– Heath Calhoun

Calhoun is an advocate for wounded servicemen and helped to get the Wounded Warrior Bill passed through Congress in 2005. In 2007, the WWP awarded him with George C. Lang Award for Courage in honor of the achievements he has made.

In 2006, Heath began training with USOC Paralympic Military Program in alpine skiing through a partner organization, Challenge Aspen, at Snowmass, Colo. He is now a certified mono-ski instructor and regularly represents Team USA in international competition. At the close of the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, Heath was selected by the athletes of Team USA to carry the American flag in the Closing Ceremonies.

Heath is the father of three; Mason (10), Brystal (8) and Bailee (7). When he is not traveling the world with Team USA he resides with his children in Clarksville, TN.

At the 2013 U.S. National Championships Heath won both the Super G and the Slalom events while finishing 4th in the GS to win the overall U.S. National Champion Title.

On the 2013 World Cup stop in Sestriere, Italy Heath won bronze in the GS. He was on his way to the silver medal at the World Championships in La Molina, Spain, when a last second crash knocked him off the podium.

In 2014, Heath had the opportunity to represent his country once again in the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi. There, he secured his first ever Paralympic Medal, finishing with the Silver Medal in the super combined.