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FUND**

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Holiday/Winter 2014

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A HERO ABROAD. A HERO AT HOME.

This is the story of one American soldier who lost his legs on the battlefield in Afghanistan but found a new mission at home in the USA.



Army Sgt. Cedric King (center); with Garland Miller, Founder and President of CSRF (back row, 3rd from right); and owners of Urban County at their "Home for the Holidays" event in Bethesda on October 30. The celebratory event featured a silent auction and fundraiser in support of local wounded soldiers.

Imagine coming out of a coma in a hospital room and wondering why your feet weren't facing upwards under the covers at the end of your bed. That's what happened to Army Sgt. Cedric King. Ten days before opening his eyes that fateful afternoon at Walter Reed Medical Center, Sgt. King had been on patrol in a place a long, long way away from his home state of North Carolina. Leading a platoon of thirty soldiers in the far outreaches of rural Afghanistan, Sgt. King and his men came under small arms fire from an unknown source of Taliban fighters; after returning fire and then investigating surrounding buildings, they stepped outside to assess the situation. That's when it happened.

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Please send donations to:
Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund
3804 Williams Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

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Top: (right) Army Sgt. Cedric King shares his story at Urban County's "Home for the Holidays" event in Bethesda on October 30, 2014.
 Bottom: (center) Garland Miller, Founder and President of CSRF, speaks to attendees; (right) wounded warrior from Walter Reed participating in the festivities with his wife.

A HERO ABROAD. A HERO AT HOME. *Continued From Page 1*

As Sgt. King leaned in towards his interpreter to ask a question, the hidden improvised device under his foot responded to the increased pressure and exploded — throwing him into the air and onto the ground. He struggled to stand up, but this was an impossible task. His legs were shattered and his skin was seared from the burning explosive. Not realizing the seriousness of his injuries, Sgt. King had to be held down by his fellow soldiers until the medics arrived and evacuated him on a chopper.

In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, he remembers praying to God. His thoughts were drawn to his wife and his two young daughters. His heart was filled with a longing to see them and tell them that he loved them. And then his mind faded into oblivion until waking up that day at Walter Reed and learning that his life was about to take an entirely new direction.

The doctors had worked hard to save his legs, but first his right leg, and then his left, had to be amputated to save his life. He was now, in his mind, half a man. But not for long.

Sgt. Cedric King was determined to "get back on his feet" — his new feet — and his new prosthetic legs. It started with slow, difficult walking. It advanced to a more steady stride, and then — just two years later — Sgt. King found himself running and finishing the New York Marathon.

Through "faith, focus and family", he had come to learn that he had never stopped being a "whole man", but not because he had his new prosthetics, rather because he learned that the "whole man" is the person on the inside — the person who no injury can take away. His new mission is to help others from all walks of life who are struggling — with or without physical injuries — to help them find the strength of that inner person and the path to hope and recovery.

The Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund was proud to be there at Walter Reed when Sgt. King got back to the USA. On behalf of everyone who has ever contributed to the CSRF, we were delighted to shake his hand and to thank him for his heroism and the lessons that he is now sharing with others. Knowing of this support and love of his fellow Americans was a part of his impressive recovery.

There are many more returning soldiers who need to hear this message of love and support and encouragement for their recovery. Your contribution to the Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund WILL make a difference. As we all count our blessings during this holiday season, share this blessing of love and encouragement to these brave young men and women who are away from their families and recovering from war. It will mean more to them than words can say. It will help them get back on their feet.