Team of wounded vets to compete in Disney half marathon

By
Marva Hinton
@ January 8, 2010 8:07 AM Permalink | Comments (0)

When Disney's half marathon kicks off Saturday, a team of wounded veterans will be among those lining up to race.

Dustin Tuller, pictured at right, is one of the 17 vets who will be participating in the race as part of the <u>Achilles Team of Wounded Veterans</u>. The team provides injured service men and women the opportunity to train and compete in mainstream races across the country.

Just over seven years ago, Tuller was wounded in Baghdad.

"I was in a raid and received multiple gunshot wounds to my lower half of my body which resulted in the loss of both of my legs," said the Pensacola area resident. "I received over 200 bullets."

The retired Army staff sergeant says during his rehab he always knew he would find a way to

"I wasn't going to lay around and do nothing," said Tuller. "In order for me to recuperate and recover. I had to find outlets to do and marathons was one of them."

Tuller uses prosthetics and has been in nearly 20 marathons since he was wounded. He's also found plenty of other outlets to keep him busy including skydiving and skiing.

Today Tuller talks to other vets about how to stay encouraged after a serious injury. He'll be competing in a handcrank wheelchair in the half marathon.

stay active.

Michael Fradera, pictured at left, will join him in the race. The 10-year Army vet from Lakeland just started doing marathons last year. He was hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2007.