

Honor in the heart of Washington

DAV celebrates anniversary of American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial dedication through service

IN WAR, THERE ARE NO UNWOUNDED SOLDIERS.

CRAIG COLLINS

By Mary Dever

To mark the fourth anniversary of the dedication of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C., DAV invited veterans to the site for no-cost claims and benefits counseling with the aid of a mobile service office (MSO).

The memorial celebrates those men and women who may be broken in body but never in spirit. It is a tribute to some of America's most courageous heroes—disabled veterans like U.S. Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient Zach Herrick, who attended the MSO event and discussed the significance of the memorial for disabled veterans like himself.

“It isn't just surviving following an invisible or physical injury; it's living,” said Herrick. “That is what this memorial accomplishes. It amplifies the voice of disabled veterans and speaks for us when, at times, we cannot.”

Herrick was serving in Afghanistan when he was shot in the face. He only narrowly made his way out of the mountains with his life.

Dedicated to both the living and the deceased—a setting for coming together or quiet meditation—the memorial holds a special place in the hearts of Americans and serves as a never-ending reminder to all of the cost of human conflict.

The memorial was formally dedicated in 2014 in tribute to all past, present and future disabled veterans.

“It's inspiring that we're able to provide our services to veterans at the national memorial that is intended



U.S. Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient Zach Herrick (center) brought his family to the anniversary event at the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. Baltimore National Service Office Supervisor Lamarr Couser (right) was able to help Zach and his family—and other veterans—with benefits assistance.

to honor them,” said Baltimore National Service Office Supervisor Lamarr Couser, who was on-site advocating to help veterans receive their earned benefits.

Herrick said the significance of the memorial should be important to anyone who was changed as a result of military service or who has benefited from those sacrifices.

“It's important to have an understanding of this memorial, not only for people to honor the fallen but to remember the men and women who were injured and came back home, like myself,” said Herrick. “We're never going to give up or be defined by our injuries. We're never going to let our injuries lead us astray in life.” ■



Learn More Online

Visit AVDLM.org to learn more about the memorial or to take a virtual tour.