

Matthew Kempainen

2020 DISABLED VETERAN OF THE YEAR
Lifetime Member DAV Chapter 3

Rank, Service

E-4/Corporal/Specialist ~ Army

Veteran of:

Persian Gulf Era ♦ 2001 ~ 2009



Matt served in the U.S. ARMY with the 101st Airborne Division from 2002-2009 – his MOS was Infantry. He completed three combat tours: Iraq from 2003-2004 and 2005-2006, Afghanistan 2008-2009, and he earned his Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). This commendable service came with a price: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which includes a variety of discomfort and pain, such as anxiety, depression, hyper vigilance, nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia and rage. Matt continues to endure PTSD and has tackled this disability head on. He maintains a sense of purpose; focusing his energy on helping veterans in any way possible, on a personal and professional level stating, “I will do everything in my power not to allow a veteran fall through the cracks.”

Thomas Beverly and Derek Jablonicky, representatives for the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, wrote, “Matt Kempainen’s total commitment to his fellow disabled veterans, to being a devoted, loving, single Father, and serving with numerous Veteran Organizations, is self-evident by the concern and quality of dedicated selfless service to those in need.” “All of this he has accomplished by overcoming his own disabilities that he incurred while serving our Nation.”

Achievements Include:

- DAV Dept. of WI Sr. Vice Commander 2019-2020
- DAV Dept. of WI Junior Vice Commander 2018-2019
- DAV Dept. of WI Judge Advocate 2017-2018
- DAV Dept. of WI District 3 Alternate Executive Committee Member 2017-2019
- Chapter #3 Jr. Vice Commander 2019 to present
- Chapter #3 2yr Executive Board Member 2017-Present
- Chapter #3 Chairman of Scholarship Committee 2016-Present
- Chapter #3 Financial Committee Member 2016-Present
- Chapter #3 Membership Committee Member 2017-Present
- Chapter #3 Social Media Chairman 2017-present
- Chapter #3 Gamblers (hockey) Committee 2017-present

Honors/Awards:

- U.S. Army – Combat Infantryman Badge
- 2 Army Commendation Medals
- 2 Army Achievement Medals
- Good Conduct for outstanding service
- Expert Marksman Badge
- Driver’s Badge

CONTRATULATIONS MATT ~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!