



NORBIE LARA

Always a Fighter

Norbie Lara joined the US Army in 1995. His career has taken him from Military Police training at Fort McClellan, Alabama ... to his first duty station at Camp Humphreys, South Korea ... to an assignment with the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas ... and deployments to Kuwait and Bosnia. Norbie was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA, when he was deployed to Iraq.

In June 2004, while on combat patrol in Iraq, a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) struck Norbie's vehicle. The RPG penetrated the firewall and severed his arm. Shrapnel from the explosion also ripped through Norbie's body, lacerating his liver. Inhaling when the RPG exploded caused severe lung damage.

Evacuated from the scene, Norbie slipped into unconsciousness and was later placed in a medically induced coma at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) in Washington, DC. He awoke in August, clinging to life, unaware that two months had passed.

It took months of intense therapy at WRAMC before Norbie could even sit up in bed without being winded. Through hard work, he was finally able to breathe on his own, relearn how to walk, and even run. Norbie retired in September of 2006 and returned home to Visalia, California, where he lives with his wife, Priscilla, and their four children. He is currently enrolled at the College of the Sequoias and plans to transfer and graduate from California State University in Fresno with a degree in social work.



Speaker Introduction for Norbie Lara

Norbie Lara is from Visalia, California. He proudly served in the United States Army for 11 ½ years, including deployments in Kuwait and Bosnia, before medically retiring as a Sergeant First Class. Norbie represented the Army at the State of the Union address in 2005 as First Lady Laura Bush’s honored guest. He was awarded Veteran of the Year for both the 38th California Assembly District and by the Visalia Veteran’s Committee. Norbie is a highly decorated Soldier, with awards that include a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Since retiring, Norbie has helped many Wounded Warriors like himself transition to their new life after injury, by introducing them to the Wounded Warrior Project. He is here today to share his story with us. Please help me welcome Mr. Norbie Lara.

DUTY ★ HONOR ★ COURAGE ★ COMMITMENT ★ INTEGRITY ★ COUNTRY ★ SERVICE





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