



CHRISTOPHER & DANA
REEVE FOUNDATION

TODAY'S CARE. TOMORROW'S CURE.®

Merging Information Resources for Military Members Living with Paralysis



AIRS CONFERENCE
MAY 24, 2016



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Objectives of this Presentation

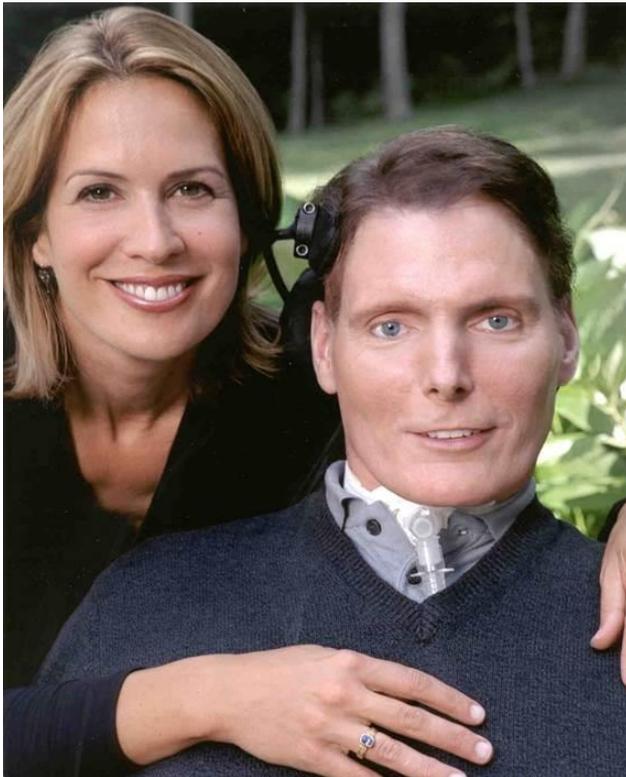
- Recognize the importance of disability criteria
- Modify intake forms to include military and veterans
- Describe how an individual may qualify for Veteran Administration services
- Identify 3 referral sources for assistance

Introduction

- How the Paralysis Resource Center Came to Be
- The beginnings of the Military and Veteran Program
 - *The early years*
 - *Evolving the Program: Where we are today*



Today's Care. Tomorrow's Cure.®



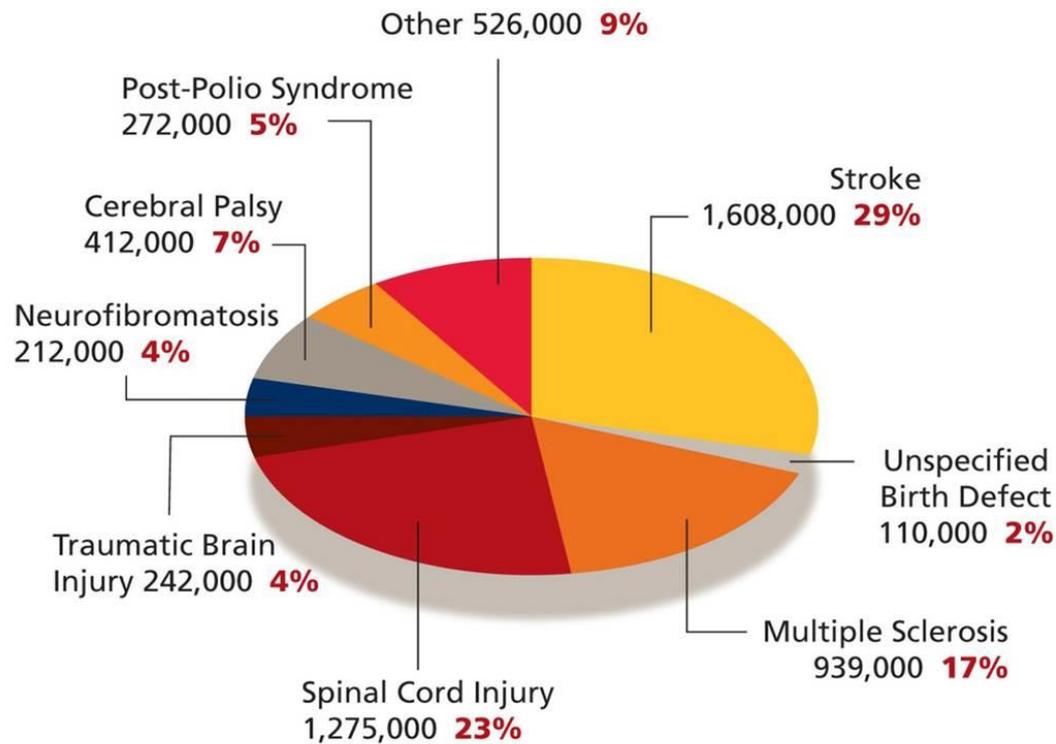
The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy.

Today's Care: Paralysis Resource Center

The PRC is a comprehensive national source for free paralysis information, services and programs for individuals with paralysis as well as their families and caregivers.



Over 5.5 million Americans are Living with Paralysis



Veterans Living with Spinal Cord Injury/ Disease

- Total U.S. veteran population is 19 million.
- There are 3.8 million American veterans collecting disability compensation as of 10/2014.
- There are 18,148 Paralyzed Veterans of America members, and their eras of service breakdown is as follows:
 - WWII: 255
 - Korean Conflict: 919
 - Vietnam Era: 9,085
 - Peacetime: 7,855
 - Gulf War 4,549

Statistics courtesy of Paralyzed Veterans of America

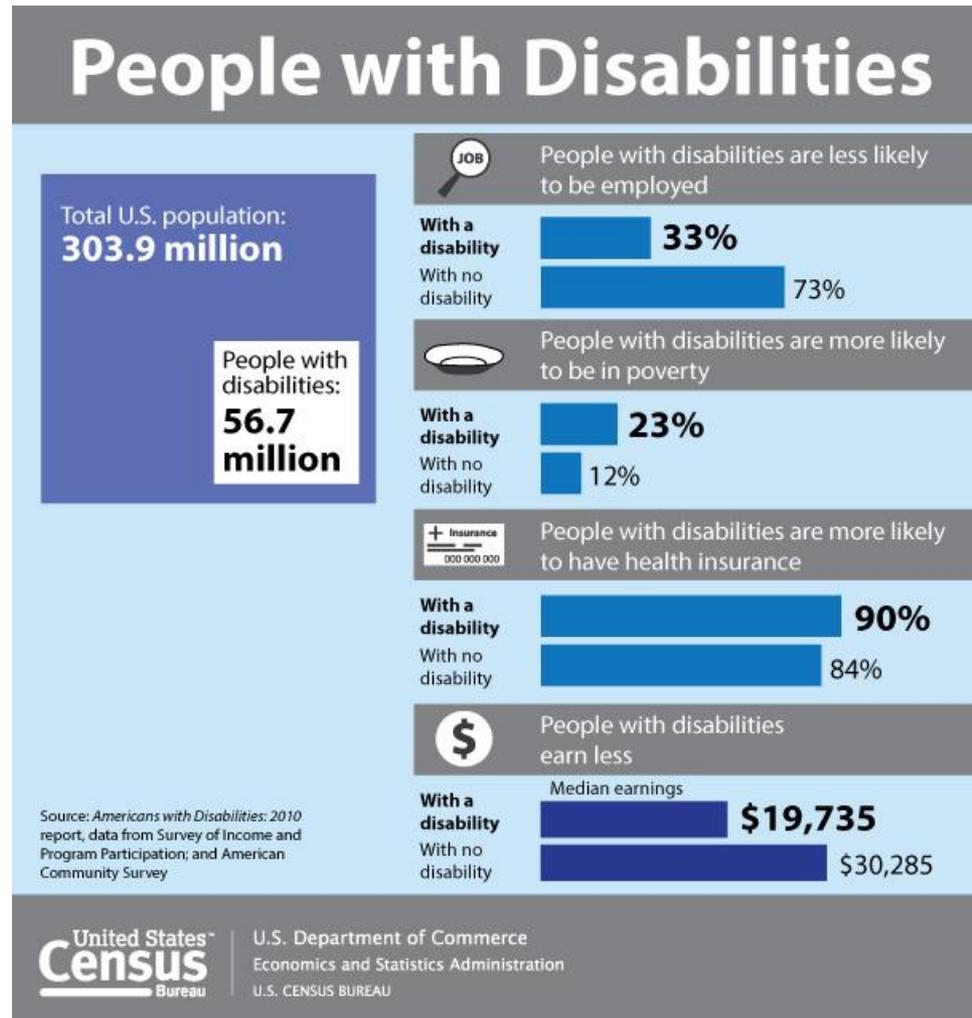
Veterans Living with Spinal Cord Injury/ Disease

The Veterans Administration estimates the cumulative number of Veterans with SCI/D is approximately 30,395.

This number reflects only veterans that *received care* at the VA.

The actual number is much larger.

The Impact of Disabilities in America



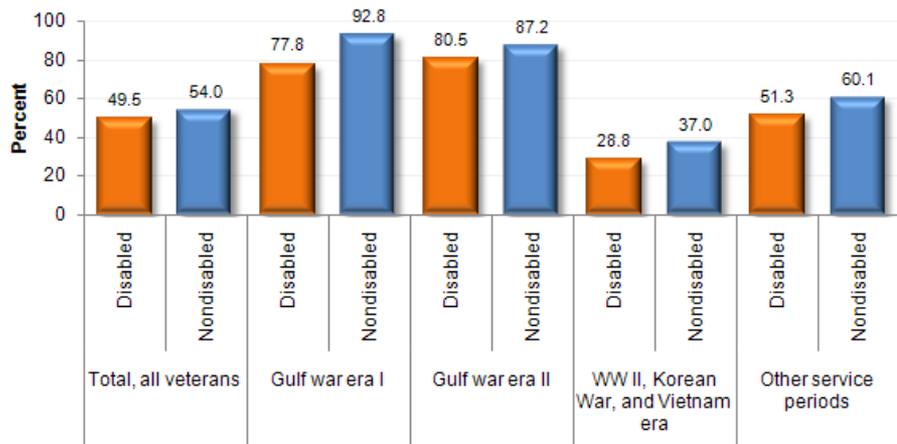
“Unemployment rate among veterans drops, but remains high”

March 20, 2014

Tom Raum, Associated Press

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/unemployment-rate-among-veterans-drops-remains-high/>

Labor force participation rates, veterans 18 years and over, by presence of service-connected disability, August 2009, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

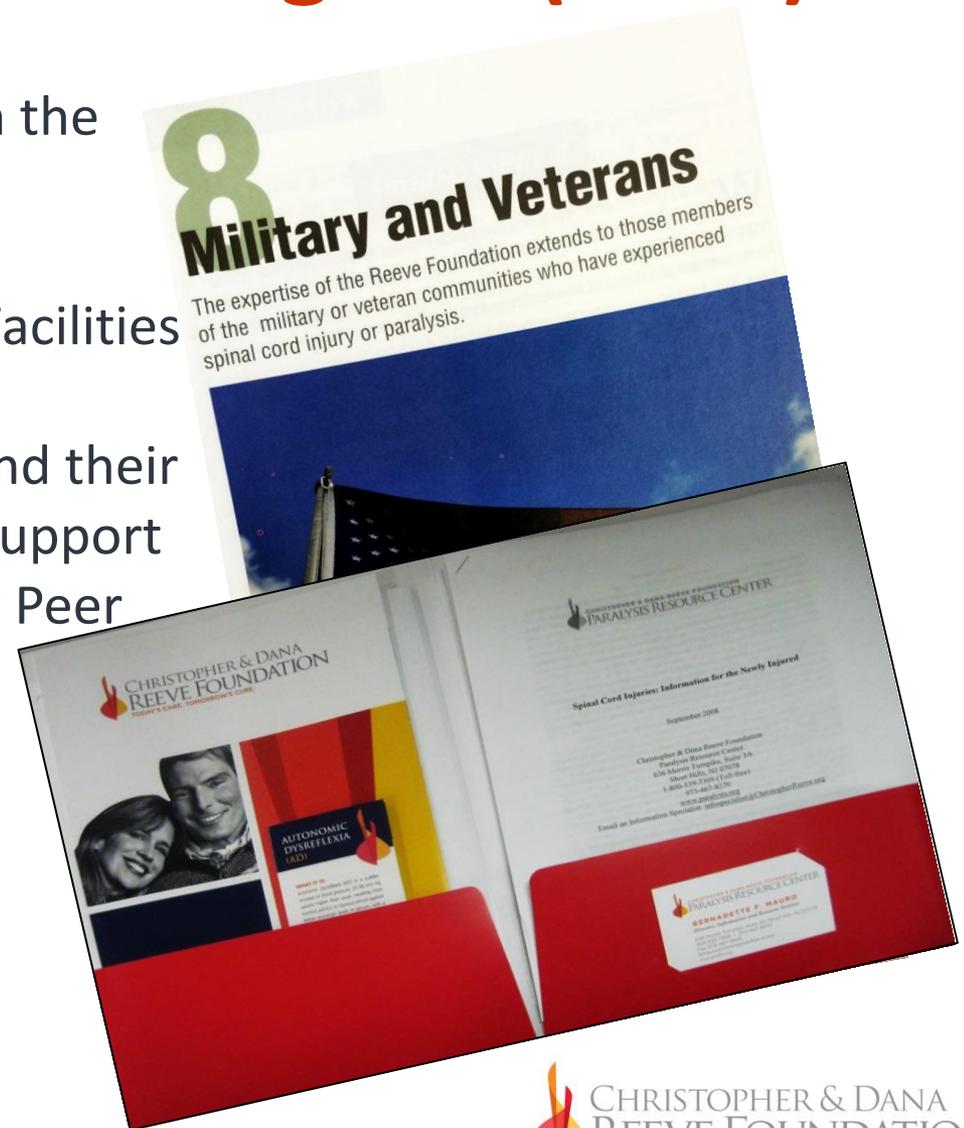
- The unemployment rate for veterans who served since 2001 dipped slightly in 2013 to 9 percent (Labor Department)
- That’s down from 9.9 percent the year before, but **well above overall civilian unemployment levels of around 7 percent over the same period.**
- The youngest veterans, aged 18-24, posted an ultra-high jobless rate of 21.4 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- Veterans with the highest jobless numbers served in the military after Sept. 11, 2001
- For all veterans, the unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in 2013, down from 7 percent the year before.

First Key Point

It is important to identify disability criteria because there are many individuals living with disabilities. The veteran population comprises a significant number of these individuals; they experience disproportionate disparities.

Military & Veteran Program (MVP)

- Guides service members through the military and veterans health care systems
- Outreach to Military Treatment Facilities and VA Medical Centers
- Connects service men, women and their families with the Peer & Family Support Program, matching them to MVP Peer Mentors





MVP Mission

The Reeve Foundation's Military & Veterans Program (MVP) extends expertise in spinal cord injury and paralysis to include resources and community connections for service men and women, as well as veterans living with paralysis, whether through combat-related, service-related, or non-service-related events.

Most Common Inquiries

- Access to medical care and equipment
- Caregiver support
- Accessible Housing
- Employment
- Food and Utilities
- Transportation

Updated Intake Form (Military)

Veteran Information

Served or currently serving in the Armed Forces

Yes
 No
 Not Sure

Which branch of the Armed Forces did the person with paralysis serve in
(select all that apply)

Army
 Navy
 Marine
 Air Force
 Coast Guard
 Merchant Marine
 Not Sure

Would the person with paralysis like info on how to enroll with the Veterans Administration

Yes
 No
 Not Sure

Insurance Type
(select all that apply)

COBRA
 Medicaid
 Medicare
 Private Insurance
 TriCare
 Veterans Administration
 Workers' Compensation
 No Insurance

Second Key Point

The Paralysis Resource Center modified our intake forms to capture veteran status. We identified a gap in our intake process. Over time we also added:

- Branch of service
- Desire for assistance to enroll in the VA System
- Type of health insurance

What we Offer:

Direct Services to Individuals With Paralysis

- Information Specialists
- Peer and Family Support Program
- Online Community
- Materials and Resources
- National Lending Library
- Community Outreach Program
- Quality of Life Program

Third Key Point

All PRC services and resources are **FREE**

FREE

Today's Care: Information Services



The Information Specialists team provides support and responds to questions from individuals via telephone, email or in-person.

- **Specialists can be reached at 800-539-7309**
- **9 am – 5 pm Eastern, Monday-Friday**

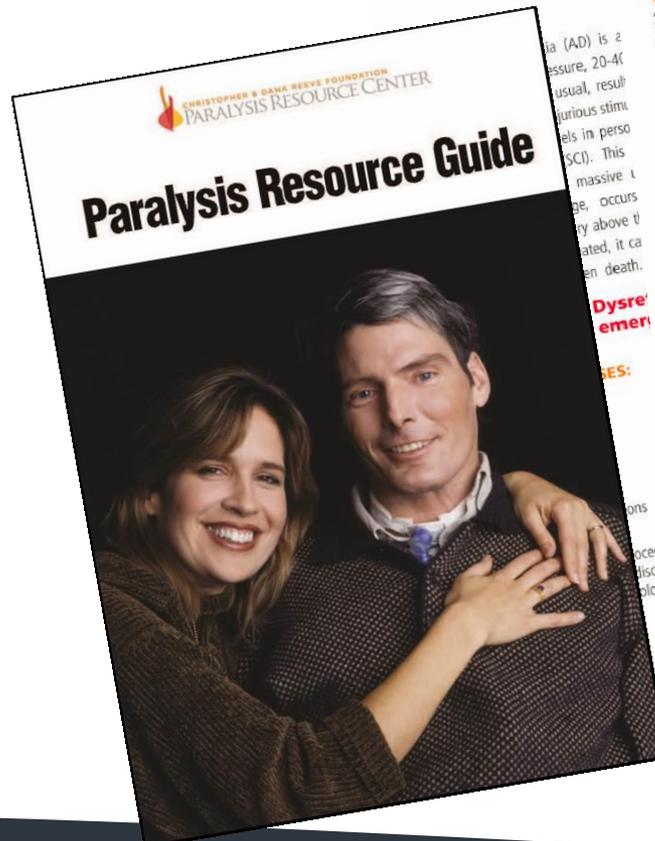
Today's Care: Information Resources

All materials
and resources
from the PRC
are always
free-of-charge.

AUTONOMIC
DYSREFLEXIA
(AD)

SEPSIS

DEEP VEIN
THROMBOSIS
(DVT)



WHAT IT IS

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own organs and tissues. Sepsis leads to organ failure and death if not recognized early and treated. Individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI), traumatic brain injury (TBI), a major surgery, an infection in the urinary tract (bladder infection), a wound, pressure sore, or a burn can develop sepsis. If the infection is not treated, it can spread throughout the body and is then diagnosed as sepsis. Sepsis with a drug-resistant infection can lead to organ failure and death. Sepsis is called blood poisoning because of the inflammatory response.

Dysreflexia

ES:

Sepsis is that must

Anyone be dev

Treat within

WHAT IT IS

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) is a blood clot, most often found in the leg or the arm, which can lead to lack of blood flow to the extremity causing internal tissue damage, edema (swelling) and skin breakdown. The clot can break loose, and travel to the lungs causing a pulmonary embolism (PE), which can affect breathing and heart function, or to the brain which can lead to a stroke and death. If you receive a spinal cord injury (SCI), the risk for a blood clot begins 72 hours after initial injury and lasts throughout life. Most individuals develop a blood clot after SCI. Almost half of those treated for blood clots will develop other clots.

Deep Vein Thrombosis is a medical emergency. See your healthcare provider immediately.

It is imperative to follow orders for lab tests in a timely manner to evaluate the status of your blood.

Peer & Family Support Program

A national peer mentoring program that provides support to people living with paralysis as well as their families and caregivers from the people who live with paralysis every day.



Online Community

A free social networking platform dedicated to the paralysis community.

- View on-demand videos and webcasts.
- Join the discussion in Facebook, Twitter, and our online forums.
- Read their blogs.



Reach out to our healthcare experts, Dr. Dan and Nurse Linda

Quality of Life Grants Program

The Grants program funds nonprofit initiatives that support people with paralysis.



Since 1999, 2,639 Quality of Life grants totaling \$19.8 million have been awarded to nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S.



197 grants have been awarded to initiatives that serve **military services & veterans and their families**, totaling \$1.5 million.

National Lending Library

The Reeve library is a national clearinghouse of information on all subjects related to paralysis:

- 5,000+ books & videos available for free loan
- Items can be mailed to a person's home with return postage
- Interlibrary loans state-wide and nationally
- Online catalog at Reeve website



Advocacy & Education

The Reeve Foundation elevates the voices of people living with paralysis and their families through:

- Building coalitions with other disability organizations
- Informing policymakers on the issues important to people living with paralysis
- Analyzing new policy proposals and ways to improve existing policy
- Alerting advocates of opportunities to share their stories with Congress



Reeve-Sponsored Speakers Initiative

Our speakers program provides in person presentations that educates and supports the paralysis community.



Conference Outreach

Attending, exhibiting, and presenting at conferences offers us the opportunity to reach various audiences and inform them about the services and products of the PRC.



Community Outreach Program



The Community Outreach Program supports people with paralysis who are members of underserved communities such as rural populations, LGBT, older adults, limited English proficiency and low-income populations.

Crisis Hotline

CRISIS HOTLINE 1.866.697.8394

**Suicidal, feeling depressed,
don't see a reason to continue?**

Reach out and get the crisis help you need.

The Reeve Foundation Crisis Hotline in collaboration
with Boys Town National Hotline is here to help 24/7.



**Boys Town collaboration permits us
to transfer troubled callers**



Fourth Key Point

Veterans and Service members need to be referred to and use both military and civilian benefits.



How to Qualify for Veteran Administration Services

- Must have a DD2-14
- SCI/D
- Active duty injured
- Wartime era veteran
- Honorable discharge
- 90- days service
- Category IV, catastrophic injury

“When my husband was spinal cord injured, the MVP staff assisted me in getting my husband qualified for VA services. Being able to get his equipment and specialty care is a relief.”

- Linda and Dave T.



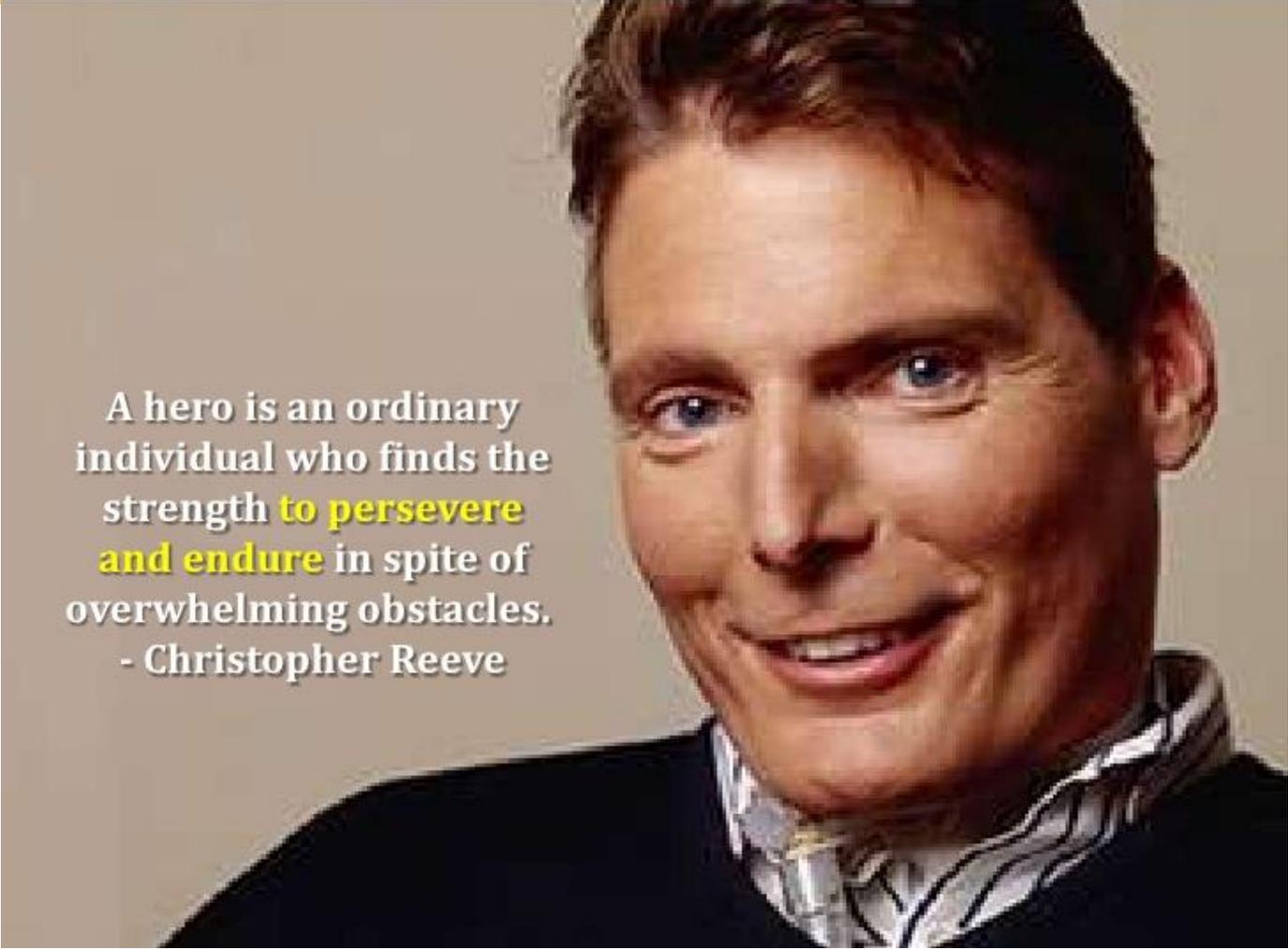
Resources for Veterans



- [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#)
- [US Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Military One Source](#)
- [eBenefits: National Resource Directory](#)
- [Veterans Benefit Administration: Locator](#)
- [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#)

Questions and/or Comments?





A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength **to persevere and endure** in spite of overwhelming obstacles.
- Christopher Reeve



**Contact the Military & Veteran
Program**

800-225-0292

www.christopherreeve.org

<https://www.christopherreeve.org/mvp>



Thank You!

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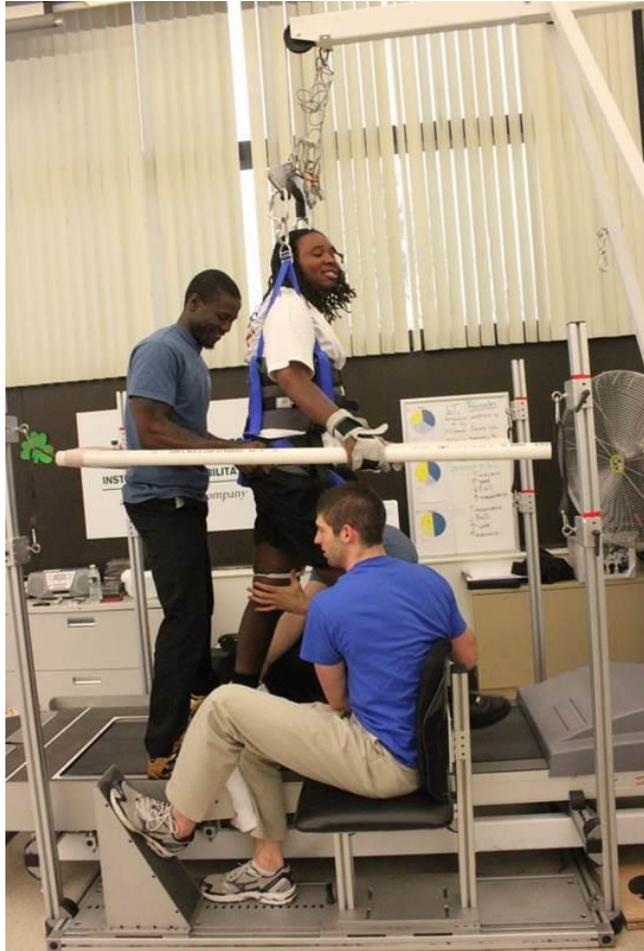
800-539-7309 ext. 8801



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NeuroRecovery Network



The NRN is a clinical research network of rehabilitation centers and community health and wellness facilities.

These facilities develop and deploy standardized, evidence-based, activity-based therapies to promote functional recovery and improved health and quality of life for people living with paralysis.