



Bruce E. Poole Foundation

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MAJ Bruce E. Poole

Executive Officer of the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and Former S1/Administrative Officer of the Engineer Brigade, 42d Infantry Division (Mechanized) while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005.

In April 2007, while on active duty, Bruce stepped off a bus and his whole right side collapsed on him. For two months he was treated for what doctors thought was a lumbar disc problem, but he was not getting any better.

In June a neurologist at the Buffalo VA Medical Center ordered extensive tests and it was then determined that Bruce actually had a calcified herniated thoracic disc that was compressing his spinal cord. The specialists recommended surgery to remove the disc and decompress the spinal cord. There were no guarantees or promises that this would correct the problem, but without the surgery the cord would become even more compressed and Bruce would eventually become paralyzed.

Bruce went through two major back surgeries, endured post-surgical complications, but he became paralyzed in his lower body after the surgery.

After medical rehabilitation in Kenmore NY, Bruce was transferred to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Center in Cleveland OH, where he received 4 months of extensive physical and occupational therapies to help him regain the feeling and movement. He has seen great improvement in the sensory area to date, but does not have any voluntary motor movement. The doctors in Cleveland have classified Bruce's injury as an "incomplete" spinal cord injury, which means that there is the chance that Bruce will one day walk again.

Bruce is now back home and continuing his fight to recover with the love and support of his

Dear Friends of Bruce,

I am happy to acknowledge that there have been numerous offerings of generous and sincere support from many of you, both near and far, these past months regarding the current condition of one of our own, MAJ Bruce Poole. So many of you have shown your desire to do "something" to help Bruce as he continues a long and difficult rehabilitation and recovery process.

Bruce's recent surgical ordeal with back surgery has left him without the use of his legs. He is wheel chair bound but Bruce's warrior drive will conquer all and he is determined to one day walk again. We all recognize that this drastically life altering experience, aside from being physically and emotionally painful, is also additionally burdensome to him financially.

There have been many and various offers to assist Bruce and his family in this current challenge he is facing. While some of us live closer to Bruce and are able to help in our own personal way, many of his friends have voiced a desire to contribute in a coordinated response. With your encouragement, and in the hope that we can help to reduce the additional personal expense associated with the structural modifications to his home and vehicle, we have established the Bruce E. Poole Foundation. Donations to the foundation can now be sent directly to M&T Bank, Tops Niagara Branch, 425 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14201 c/o Bruce E. Poole Foundation: Account Number: 9847452555.

In addition to any contribution you may wish to send to the foundation in support of Bruce, I would like to ask those of you that would like to serve as part of the Bruce E. Poole Foundation Committee to reply to me via email at: jeffrey.cipolla@us.army.mil or SFC Barbara J. Tompkins at: barbara.tompkins@ng.army.mil. You can also reach either SFC Tompkins or I by telephone us at: 716-888-5731 or on my cell at: 716-531-3249.

Please help to make today a bit more bearable for Bruce and his family while we remain hopeful that he will one day soon regain the use of his legs.

Thank you again for helping a local disabled Iraqi War Veteran!

Sincerely,

LTC Jeffrey M. Cipolla
Foundation Co-Chairman