

Stephen Wenceslao Evans



Dates of service: August 21 2007 - Mid-February 2012.

Rank & role: Discharged as E5 Combat Medic (Sergeant) .

Unit: Deployed with 1st Armored Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Battallion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Eagle Company, Second Platoon. Served as a combat medic on a route clearance team.

Medals received: Purple Heart, some army commendation medals, combat medic badge/combat action badge.

Familial link to William & Theresa: 5th generation through Henry and Helen Westhues, Bob and Marilyn Evans, and Henry and Jane Evans.

Notable actions/deployments/stories:

Stephen joined the US Army out of high school. After completing Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia and completing Combat Medic training, he was assigned to his platoon and stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. Soon thereafter, his platoon was deployed to Iraq on a route clearance mission. A few months into the deployment, an EFP (Explosive Formed Penetrator) ripped through the side of the vehicle (an MRAP) they were riding in, obliterated Stephen's left tibia, showered his left side with burning shrapnel, and passed straight through the stack of C-4 explosives (that somehow didn't detonate) that Stephen was sitting on.

(Cont'd)

His platoon (largely unharmed) found Stephen alive but rapidly bleeding out, and managed to stop the bleeding with a tourniquet. They brought him to a field hospital, where they put his mangled leg in an Ex-Fix (External Fixator), patched up his wounds and burns, and air-vacced him to the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. We were informed that he was in critical condition, having suffered severe facial burns, multiple deep flesh wounds/burns, a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), a fractured skull, in addition to losing 6" of his left tibia. When he was relatively stabilized, they immediately flew him to Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, Texas. Jane and Henry moved to BAMC for two months as he started his recovery.

They grafted skin onto his burns, treated his wounds and actually grew the bone back to fill the 6" gap in his tibia. That process took over a year. In addition to his body, the Army also treated his mind. An education specialist introduced him to online classes, and he started with remedial math. He kept going, and eventually graduated from the University of Texas' Baccalaureate Honors Program with degrees in Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. He earned a PhD in the Neuroscience Program at Stanford University. He and his wife Maggie, who had also helped Stephen through his convalescence, have recently added to the sixth generation of the Westhues line in America with their daughter Theodora Caroline Evans (Teddie).

