

Will Kimberlin: Never Give Up

As an active member of the United States Military, Will Kimberlin was used to danger. He trained every day to become a good soldier. He was ready to survive enemy attacks, roadside bombs, and other elements of war. But it wasn't any of these things that caused his brain injury-- it happened in the blink of an eye, when he least expected it.

It was December of 1998 and Will was traveling back east from the Georgia base where he was stationed. He was riding in a car with one of his friends in North Carolina at around 5 a.m.

That's the last thing Will remembers from that day.

He was involved in a car crash. The car he was in sped down an embankment and the trees came through and hit Will while he was in the passenger seat. Neither Will nor the driver remember what happened, so the cause of the crash is still unknown.

Will's mother Ellen awoke to someone knocking at her door at 6 a.m. It was the Randolph Township Police Department informing her of the accident. She quickly traveled to North Carolina to be with her son. It was a day she will never forget.

"I thought he was dying," she said. "They originally told me there was no hope for recovery. But I knew him better than that. I always felt as though he would."

Will went through a vigorous rehabilitation process but slowly he began to improve, beating the odds.

"It was very frustrating," Will said. "I felt frustrated for years, and I still feel a lot of frustration, but I just try to do the best I can."

It is now 10 years since the accident. Will, 34, still lives with many of the effects of his injury.

He now works as a substitute school teacher, a job he absolutely loves.

He enjoys spending time with the students, and he has become quite a popular figure in his school district. He also takes the time to speak to Driver's Education classes to let them know about the dangers that come along with driving.

Will just passed his own Driver's test and can now drive on his own. It's an accomplishment he is very proud of.

He has also recently joined the Council for the Head Injured Community (CHIC) and has taken up some pretty interesting hobbies such as ballroom dancing and working out.

Will is proud of how far he has been able to come since the injury, but he isn't surprised. "Whatever happens I'll beat it," he said. "That's just me. They told me I'd probably never be able



Will Kimberlin with his mother Ellen.

to talk again but I didn't believe it. I just said to myself 'we'll see about that.' I just never gave up. You can never give up."

THE CREATIVITY EXPO

DEDICATED TO EXHIBITING THE WORK
OF PEOPLE WITH ACQUIRED OR
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

WHERE? Raritan Valley Community College Art Gallery,
North Branch, New Jersey.

WHEN? Saturday July 11th - Tuesday July 21th.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SPECIAL ARTISTS RECEPTION ON OPENING DAY,
SATURDAY JULY 12TH FROM 12:00-1:00PM... FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROVIDED!!!

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT: VINCENT DIORIO AT 703-297-7726
or at 1-800-374-0071 x220 or email Vince at vincentd54@msn.com.
For pictures from CREATIVITY EXPO 2008 and directions to the Expo
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE www.geocities.com/braininjuryartsnj

Poster/Flyer Design - Paul Mahoney: ptjmahoney@verizon.net