

Against All Odds Award – Matthew Bryant

Matthew Bryant joined the Royal Marines in 2007 aged just 17. He is a young man who embodies the qualities of ‘Soldiering On Through Life’. Having had limited contact with his step brothers and sisters growing up, Matt found the idea of a military family very appealing. Like many others, his sense of adventure and sense of duty was strong; however family and belonging are two values which drive Matt intensely. These values he found within the Royal Marines, but it wasn’t long before he was deployed to Afghanistan at just 18 years old where his life would change irrevocably.

During what he describes as a ‘kinetic tour’, Matt received a series of gunshot wounds as he attempted to rescue a fallen colleague. These left him with severe and complex injuries to his arm and leg, which nearly cost him his life there and then. In order to reach safety however, Matt was dragged through an open sewer, which would result in several further attempts on his life at the hands of infection.

I appreciate that unfortunately these kinds of stories are now all too common within our Service community; however it is for Matthew’s character since then that I wish to nominate him for the Award. Ingrained within him is something which has kept him going when many others would have conceded defeat.

Since he was a child, Matt’s family have not always been in the best of health. Being the kind of man he is, despite his own injuries, Matt chose to be there to support his family at all times. The responsibility placed on Matt’s shoulders is significant. To add to his burden, Matt’s Father died unexpectedly in the summer of 2012, requiring Matt to look after his step siblings

Nominated by:



in Cornwall whilst attending our full time training course in West Sussex.

Personally I’d have started feeling sorry for myself long beforehand, however not Matt. Since joining our charity ‘Wings for Warriors’, Matt has passed his Private Pilot’s License and is currently studying for his commercial pilot’s exams, which frankly make a Science degree look easy. In addition, he has organised fundraising ventures, worked part-time jobs and networked within industry for his own future. He approaches everything he does with dignity, professionalism and an attitude which lies somewhere between headstrong and inspirational.

He has become a fundamental part of our ‘Wings’ family and I am proud to know him. Please help me show Matt that he is not alone and that people recognise him for the inspirational young man he is now and the future success I know he will be.



Sponsored by:

