

LAX 4 VETS 2017

Fundraiser supports our team's offseason program and participation in the
12th Annual Sticks for Soldiers Tournament: Thanksgiving Weekend, Saturday, November 25
Fairfield Ludlowe High School Facilities, Fairfield, CT

Sticks for Soldiers, LLC is a 501 (c) 3, organization. Large donations can be given directly
www.sticksforsoldiers.org A portion of the proceeds of LAX 4 VETS will go directly to Sticks For
Soldiers and benefit the following **2017 Honoree Spotlight: Calvin Todd**

Todd graduated from Concord (N.H.) High School in 2006 and went to the College of Wooster (Ohio) to study art and play goalie for the lacrosse team. He enlisted in the U.S. Army his senior year of college and left for basic training shortly after receiving his diploma.

On Oct. 4, 2012, Todd was part of a four-day mission in Afghanistan to look for and clear improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and push the Taliban out of the villages. His unit was about 200 meters from its final checkpoint when Taliban fighters opened fire.

"The lead part of my element, about 50 meters ahead, got blown up," Todd said. "I was the medic, so I took off to get up front. I stepped on a secondary and it pretty much blew my foot off instantly. I was very fortunate that all my guys were very well trained and we worked through it. Luckily nobody died, but a couple of us lost legs that day."

Todd was transported to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. to begin the recovery process. It was there that he reunited with his wife Alice and met his two-week-old son Angus for the first time. Todd underwent a rigorous physical therapy program that included three or four hours per day of aggressive rehab. He put in additional hours working out in the gym. "It's one of those things where you get out it what you put into it," he said.

During that time, Jeff Colson, who runs the Indoor Action Sports lacrosse program out of Greenfield, Mass., called Todd to see if he wanted to play in the Matty Demaine Invitational lacrosse tournament at the Indoor Action Sports Dome.

"I called him back and said 'Hey, I lost my leg. There's no way I'm playing this year.' He couldn't believe it," Todd said. "From then on, sort of my motivation was to get back and play. That was my rehab goal: to get back playing lacrosse again. And I've been playing ever since."

Todd returned to the lacrosse field five months after losing the lower part of his leg, and has continued to play and coach as much as possible ever since. Todd, 26, medically retired from the Army in March 2014, after four years of service. He is now coaching at his local high school and traveling with the IAS select teams to tournaments in the off-season.

"The sport gave me so much, so why not try to give back with coaching? It's meant a lot to me to be able to impact kids. Whether they get motivated through seeing you with no leg or if it's because you push them to a new level, it's a good community to be in, constantly pushing the next people to do better and watch them grow." (Courtesy Morgan Ryan, Lake Placid News, 8/12/2014)