

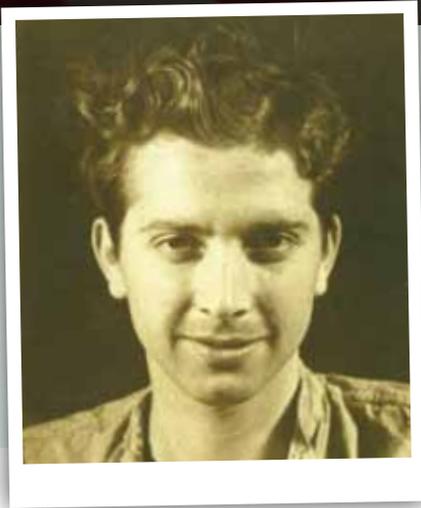


LEIMKUEHLER *IMPACT*

ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC CENTER, INC.

SPRING 2015

THREE GENERATIONS OF WOUNDED WARRIORS



ROY FULMER, 95 -
WORLD WAR II



PAUL MILLER, 66 -
VIETNAM



HEATH KIRK, 26 -
AFGHANISTAN

BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD: RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

U.S. ARMY PVT. ELROY (ROY) FULMER – WORLD WAR II

Elroy (Roy) Fulmer, 95, is a member of the Greatest Generation – the group of men and women who grew up during the Depression, fought in World War II, and came back home to work and raise their families in a time of prosperity. He is Leimkuehler's only surviving World War II amputee.

Roy enlisted in the army in 1941 and was deployed to Europe. On assignment to scale the steep cliffs of Monte Cassino where the Germans had a valuable observation post, he stepped on a landmine resulting in the loss of his leg below the knee. "The good part of that is the guys who were with me didn't get hurt," Roy said.

After treatment for his wounds at Percy Jones Army Hospital in Battle Creek, Mich., Roy returned to Ohio to work at American Radiator, American Standard and Smith and Jones factories. "After 41 years, I said I'm not going to work anymore and I retired," he said.

"His heritage is mostly German and he often said that it was funny that he was a German, fighting the Germans, and he stepped on a landmine that

was put there by the Germans," said Roy's son, Tim. "His way of looking at it is that they were just doing their job – doing what they were told to do."

Also at Percy Jones, Roy was presented the Purple Heart. "He told the commander just to set it on the bedside table – he wasn't ready to wear it," Tim said.

The Purple Heart eventually left Roy's possession and when Tim finally recovered it more than six years later, he presented it again to his dad. "His bottom lip started to quiver," Tim said. "I told him he earned it and every Veterans Day, I have him wear it."

Roy is a long-time Leimkuehler patient and sees John Fabian, CPO, LCO.



U.S. ARMY SGT. E-5 PAUL MILLER - VIETNAM

Sgt. E-5 Paul Miller with the Army 101st Airborne made it stateside just before his 21st birthday. But it wasn't the best of times for him. Injured by a rocket propelled grenade in Vietnam in 1969, Paul underwent amputation at Camp Drake, Japan, before being transferred to Valley Forge General Hospital. His massive injuries not only included a transfemoral (above-knee) amputation, but various shrapnel wounds and damage to his right and left hand. His recovery involved more than 30 surgeries. Paul also endured some serious health problems years later due to exposure to Agent Orange.

"I got blown up pretty good," Paul said. "I was in a complete body cast when I left Japan. I couldn't do anything for myself. I just figured I would never walk again because I never experienced seeing anybody without a leg."

"At the point where I am in my life now, I can't believe that I actually went through it. You think it's the end of your life, because it is very traumatizing. What helped was recovering with a hundred or more amputees at Valley Forge. Everybody took care of each other, so it was very therapeutic."

Paul said that is the advice he would give a new amputee. "Get involved with another amputee that has the experience. That is what helped me from the beginning. It's not going to be easy and it's not fun, but life has to go on. Accept that and once you do, you'll be OK."

Paul is a patient of Bill Leimkuehler, CPO. Currently he is fitted with a hydraulic knee and hybrid socket – a cross between a quad socket and ischial containment. "It's a socket that has evolved through the years with minor changes. We encouraged him to try a microprocessor knee, but he

prefers the hydraulic knee."

Paul agrees that prostheses have come a long way, but he prefers what he is used to. "Bill is very professional and always willing to work with the VA to

"I'm in the woods a lot and I can step over logs and I don't worry about it. I wear shorts all the time and I get a lot of comments from people who tell me how well I walk."



meet my needs and keeps me updated with latest technology. But I feel that I have more control over my hydraulic knee. I'm in the woods a lot and I can step over logs and I don't worry about it. I wear shorts all the time and I get a lot of comments from people who tell me how well I walk."

Until knee replacement surgery on his "good" leg several years ago, Paul was quite fond of downhill skiing. Now Paul enjoys his leisure time as a serious mushroom hunter and bird watcher, participating in annual bird counts, as well as enjoying the exploits of two grandchildren. "I retired in 2006 and loved it ever since. I plan to stay active as long as I can," he said.

Paul is a recipient of the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device, Combat Infantryman Badge, Air Medal, Sharpshooter Badge M14 with Rifle Bar.

U.S. ARMY CPL. HEATH KIRK - AFGHANISTAN

September 24, 2009, is the day life changed for Army Cpl. Heath Kirk. That was when the Hummer he was driving in Afghanistan was ambushed by an RPG. Heath was in the driver's seat, the worst place to be in an ambush. He took the brunt of the impact.

"We were going back to the base after a security detail and we knew something was wrong because the town we drove through was very quiet and dark. That was unusual because there was always something going on and people in the streets. Then a bright flash and we knew we were being ambushed," he said.

When Heath finally got the Hummer stopped, it burst into flames. His door was melted shut and so he crawled into the back of the vehicle where one of his buddies pulled him out and threw him in a ditch.

"I knew what was going on. I wasn't in shock. They tried to keep me from looking down. I didn't realize my leg was gone until I was on the surgery table. I looked toward my feet and that is when I realized what happened. That was when I went into shock."

Heath was taken to Germany and remained hospitalized there until his infections from burns were brought under control and then flown to Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

After multiple surgeries to save his leg that wasn't blown off, skin grafts, and an implant of a titanium thigh bone, Heath was fitted with a prosthesis, but the battle for recovery and rehabilitation was far from over.

Heath eventually returned to his hometown and became a patient of Bill Leimkuehler, CPO.

"When I saw him, he had the Ottobock X2 microprocessor knee and came in with a prescription for the X3," Bill said. "But we also needed to do a socket change. Heath had some fitting problems because there is little redundant tissue on the distal end. We fitted him with a suction socket, with ischial containment and a skin fit, but we will need to adjust as he gains or loses weight."

"I love the service at Leimkuehler's, Heath said. "I'm happy with the socket and the X3. It feels more like having a real leg for me."

"It allows me to be out in the rain and I don't have to worry about it. I can ride my motorcycle in the rain and I'm OK. If I'm out kayaking I don't have to stop to change my leg. I don't have to take one leg off and put another one on – I can walk downhill. It allows me to not have to worry about a lot of things. It is a lot easier being able to walk to the dock with a leg that is fully electronic and computerized and then to jump into the water."

Besides water sports and riding his Harley, Heath likes camping, hunting, riding dirt bikes and four-wheelers.

Heath is a recipient of the Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge, but to him, that is not what the meaning of service to America is.

"I'm not someone who likes all the glory. That's not who I am. I did what I had to do to save my friends and they did what they had to do to save me. That's all there is to it. We were a small knit group of 20 people and we were just one big family."



INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE FROM LEIMKUEHLER

OTTOBOCK'S X3 KNEE

Originally developed for the military, the X3 is now available for civilians. The result of a collaboration between the U.S. military and Ottobock, the goal was to develop a more durable and intuitive prosthetic leg to help injured service members with above-knee amputations return to normal activities of daily living as well as active duty if they choose. The knee is designed to be rugged, based on conditions an active duty military member might face and is up to the challenge of adverse and rough terrain.

With an accelerometer and a gyroscope that intuitively knows where the leg is in space, the most natural gait possible is achieved. These are the same technologies used in Wii™ gaming systems and smart phones.

That means less worry of a stumble or fall and less concentration needed when on the move.

The X3 also is capable of switching into a larger swing angle for running and other sports. Plus, the innovative Walk2Run mode detects start-and-stop running (such as crossing a street or trying to catch a bus) and automatically increases the wearer's swing angle.

Programmed using a laptop and Bluetooth® technology, five activity modes can be set for biking, golfing, driving, etc. and are activated using a key fob-sized remote. A mute mode is also available that silences all vibration and beep signals of the leg when needed for activities such as meetings, church services, hunting and more.

Completely submersible, the X3 is perfect for anyone working in or near water or for activities such as showering, car washing, or boating, all without having to worry about it damaging the componentry.



Unity Vacuum System:

Ossur's Unity Vacuum System offers the security and freedom of vacuum suspension but without the sensation and restrictions of a sleeve. It effectively addresses volume fluctuations and is totally compatible with Flex-Foot technology. The Unity is for above- and below-knee amputees, low active or high active, mechanical or microprocessor knee users.

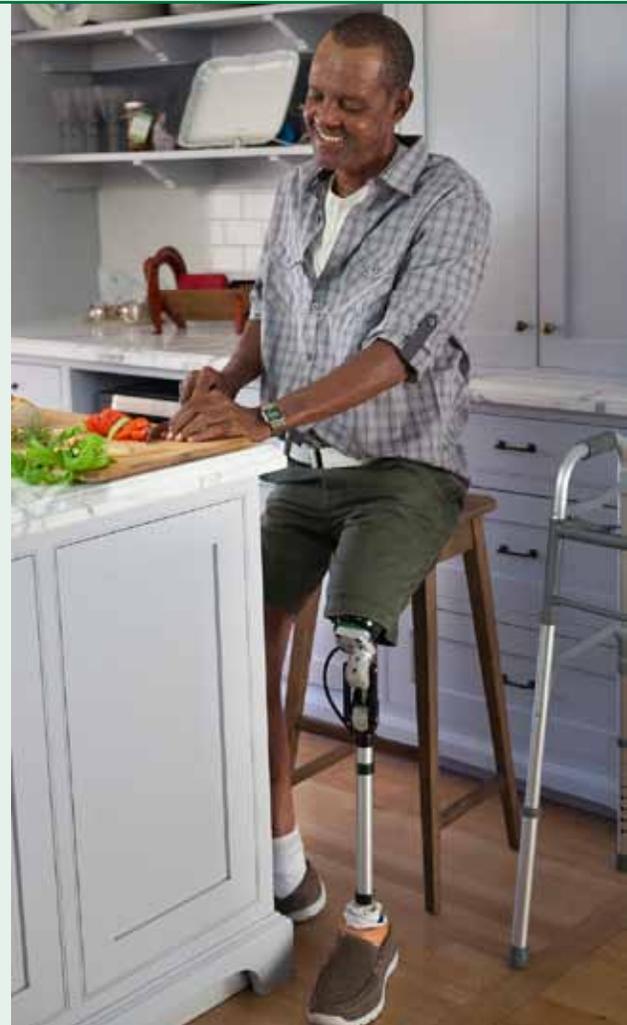
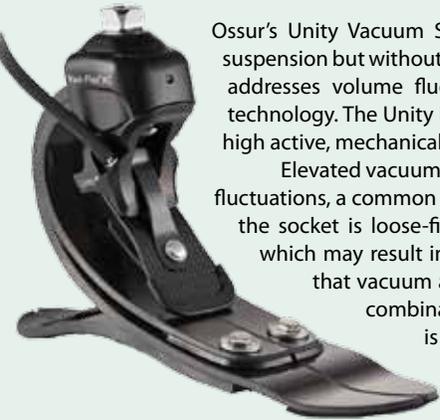
Elevated vacuum systems are designed to control residual limb volume fluctuations, a common problem for amputees. When limb volume decreases, the socket is loose-fitting, often causing pressure to bony prominences, which may result in pain and/or injury to the limb. Studies have shown that vacuum assisted socket eliminates daily volume loss. Plus, the combination of reduced pistoning and maintenance of volume is thought to account for the more symmetrical gait observed in users of elevated vacuum suspension.

Key advantages to using an elevated vacuum system include:

- Controlling volume and reducing fluctuations.
- Improving socket fit and enhancing suspension.
- Reducing pistoning and rotation.
- Promoting skin and limb health.
- Improving comfort.
- Lowering energy consumption.
- Optimizing gait characteristics.

The Unity weighs less than 5 oz. and can be integrated directly into the prosthetic foot and built directly into the foot late rather than on a pylon.

If you would like to know more about these featured products, contact your Leimkuehler prosthetist.



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Preview of Paul Leimkuehler Documentary on YouTube



Katie Leimkuehler, granddaughter of our founder, Paul Leimkuehler, is producing a documentary about Paul's work and triumphs in the sport of skiing after he became an amputee in WWII.

Paul was inducted in the Ski Hall of Fame in 1981 for designing outriggers that amputee skiers still use today. He was also awarded the Purple Heart and inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

The trailer of "Fresh Tracks: A Story of Ski Pioneer," can be viewed on www.youtube.com; enter Ski Pioneer in the search box. The full length documentary will be made in 2015.

You're Invited to ...

The Leimkuehler Amputee Support Group Picnic

Wednesday, June 24, 2015
Leimkuehler O & P Center, Inc.

6:00 - 6:45 PM Introduction & Get Acquainted

6:45 - 7:30 PM Picnic

We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages.
Please bring a dish to share.

7:30 - 8:30 PM Presentation and Patient Questions

Leimkuehler O & P Center, Inc.
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Rain or Shine

Please call by June 19th and let us
know if you are coming.

