

Nominated by:



International Award – Kirk M Bauer, JD



Kirk M Bauer has too many accolades to list individually! As the Executive Director of Disabled Sports USA (DSUSA), this incredibly accomplished man has achieved so much for so many, despite facing firsthand

the challenges of disability. As a non-commissioned US Army Officer, he lost a leg while serving in Vietnam.

Through over 40 years of Kirk's leadership, DSUSA has transformed into one of the largest US-based non-profit sports organisations serving people with disabilities. Kirk is widely recognised as an international pioneer of adaptive sports, and has developed a close relationship with British Armed Forces and Ex-Forces organisations. He helped to establish one of the first comprehensive sports rehabilitation programmes, enabling severely injured troops to take part in various adaptive sports programmes, including skiing, snowboarding, cycling and water sports.

Thanks to Kirk, thousands of athletes have participated in sports programmes, including the Paralympic Games. He was honoured to represent the USA in Presidential Delegations to both Italy and Beijing.

Kirk firmly believes in motivating people by example to lead healthy and active lifestyles. He is an outstanding ski racer and one of the first certified disabled ski instructors. His roster of achievements includes completing, and often winning, various marathons and endurance hikes. He also has a triple

achievement in the "Three Notch Century Ride" - 100 mile cycling in one day!

Kirk has successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and, last June, at age 64, he led a team of five wounded warriors, with "four good legs" to battle severe wind and snowstorms to climb 15,500 feet of Alaska's Mount McKinley.

Named one of the top 25 innovators and influencers in the sports community, Kirk has established fitness programmes for disabled people and established a nationwide programme to ensure disabled children's rights to physical education at school. He has been awarded:

- the Bronze Star for heroism (twice)
- the Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device
- the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in combat
- the 1998 Gene Autry Courage Award
- the George M. Steinbrenner III Sports Leadership Award
- the title of "Healthy American Fitness Leader" by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Kirk has been featured widely on American TV and radio, as well as in various articles published in numerous newspapers, including the Washington Post, USA Today and New York Times.

He is one of the most inspirational and focused individuals anyone could hope to meet, and thoroughly deserving of this prestigious award.

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