Johnnie Yellock II

Staff Sergeant

United States Air Force (Retired)

2013 Warrior Open Participant

Staff Sergeant Johnnie O. Yellock II comes from a dual Veteran family and was raised in Texas. In 2002, he graduated from Keller High School before receiving his degree in Manufacturing Engineering from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX in 2006.

Staff Sergeant Yellock enlisted as a Combat Controller in the Air Force on April 17, 2007, and completed the Combat Control pipeline in June 2009. He was a trained static line and free fall jumper, as well as a U.S. Army qualified combat scuba diver. He was then assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field, FL.

On July 6, 2011, an improvised explosive device struck Staff Sergeant Yellock’s vehicle, injuring both of his legs. He applied tourniquets to each of his legs and continued to assist his team by providing helicopter landing zone guidance to MEDEVAC himself and his interpreter to the nearest hospital. Staff Sergeant Yellock received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Action Medal for his actions that day. He would spend the next three years in rehab at BAMC in San Antonio and has endured 30 limb-salvage surgeries to date. He continued to play golf throughout his recovery process. Johnnie medically retired from active duty on November 27, 2013.

He now enjoys public speaking and has continued to serve by supporting other veterans, fellow wounded service members and Gold Star families. Staff Sergeant Yellock is the Veteran Liaison for Helping a Hero, Director of Veteran Transition for Darkhorse Benefits and champions the Mark Forester Foundation (www.MarkAForester.com) to honor of his best friend who was killed in action.