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Lt. Nick Vogt, Double Amputee Soldier Who Battled Death, Makes Incredible Recovery (PHOTOS, VIDEO)

Posted: 11/06/2012 3:12 pm EST Updated: 11/06/2012 3:59 pm EST

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First Lt. Nick Vogt has faced death many times this year, but thanks to the support, prayers and blood of more than 300 troops, the soldier is alive and on the road to recovery.

An aspiring Army trauma surgeon, Vogt, now 24, graduated from West Point in 2010. A year later, the young man found himself in Afghanistan, serving with the 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. But as the Military Times reports, his experience on the battlefield would be short-lived.

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Just two months into his service in Kandahar province, Vogt would be considered "clinically dead," having stepped onto a improvised explosive device (IED) that was buried in the soil beneath his feet, according to the report. The bomb exploded, taking his left leg and mutilating the right.

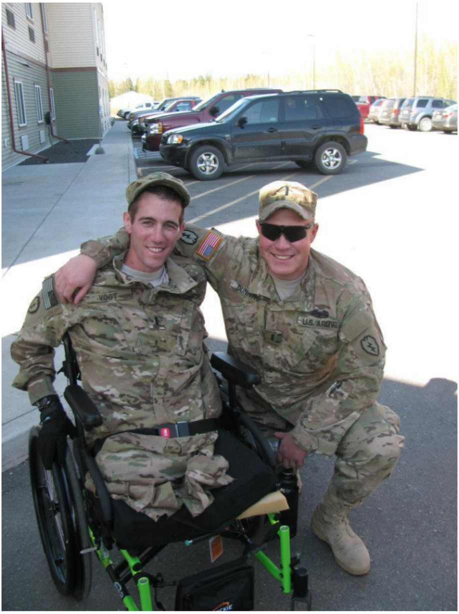
Another soldier, 21-year-old Calvin Pereda, who had been standing next to Vogt would eventually lose his life from injuries caused by the explosion. Vogt himself almost didn't survive.

The Catholic News Agency writes:

> Nick should be dead, the doctors told his family later, if not from the explosion then from the precarious surgeries that followed. He suffered such severe wounds that his heart stopped several times as doctors operated to stanch the massive bleeding.

As the Military Times notes, Vogt's physical condition had deteriorated so rapidly that physicians were forced to open Vogt's chest to perform manual heart massage. This maneuver, while keeping the young man alive, also meant that Vogt was losing blood at a hazardous rate. Even worse, the hospital where he was being treated had used up its entire supply of platelets, whole blood and plasma. The young man needed more to even have a chance at survival.

Fortunately, Vogt's fellow troops refused to allow him to die without a fight.



(Photo credit: Facebook/Nick Vogt Family)

A band of soldiers, including team leader Sgt. Adam Lundy, hurriedly rallied blood donors "from across the Kandahar post." More than 300 troops would step up to donate blood.

In all, Vogt received more than 400 units of blood (and another 100 was needed later) -- more than any other wartime patient in U.S. history, the Catholic News Agency writes.

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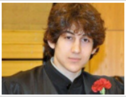

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After being transferred to a hospital in Germany and finally the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland, Vogt underwent at least another 30 surgeries. His heart would stop twice more as he battled infections and a brain aneurysm, according to the Military Times.

But today, almost a year after enduring his traumatic injury, Vogt is not only alive, but healthy. He's doing so well, in fact, that he posted a video on YouTube in August showing him doing push-ups.

"Things like 'missing leg' can have some advantages. For example, I've lost 70 pounds haha," he wrote in the video's comments section.

Vogt has inspired many with his story of bravery. But the young man says that he owes his life to the hundreds of soldiers who gave a piece of themselves to save him.

His family also says that the hundreds of people who have rallied around Vogt this past year -- like the 600 or so people who signed up to run a 5K race in Vogt's name this May -- have been a tremendous source of comfort and support.

"We could never find the words to express our appreciation and gratitude to the hundreds of people who have helped Nick survive his injuries," Sheila Vogt, Nick's mom, told U.S.A. Army Alaska. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Had it not been for you, we would not have been able to tell the story of Nick's survival. He has a very bright future, and we are so glad that God put you into Nick's life."

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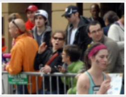

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- The Unknown Soldiers: Soldier, family have no regrets for serving
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- The best and brightest from this week's Army Times
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- Lt. Nick Vogt and the power of faith :: Catholic News Agency (CNA)
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Filed by Dominique Mosbergen |

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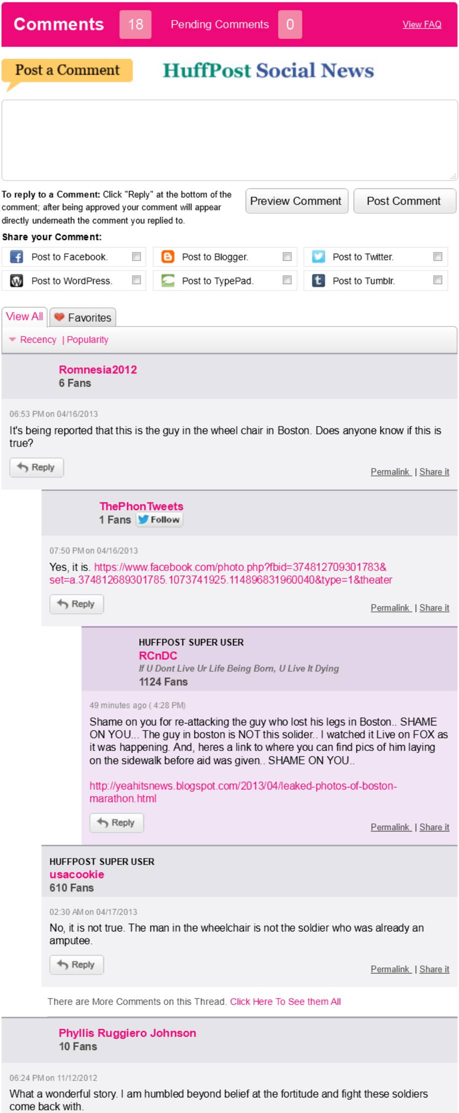

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Romnesia2012
6 Fans

06:53 PM on 04/16/2013

It's being reported that this is the guy in the wheel chair in Boston. Does anyone know if this is true?

ThePhonTweets
1 Fans Follow

07:50 PM on 04/16/2013

Yes, it is. https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=374812709301783&set=a.374812689301785.1073741925.114896831960040&type=1&theater

HUFFPOST SUPER USER
RCnDC
If U Dont Live Ur Life Being Born, U Live It Dying
1124 Fans

49 minutes ago (4:28 PM)

Shame on you for re-attacking the guy who lost his legs in Boston.. SHAME ON YOU... The guy in boston is NOT this solider.. I watched it Live on FOX as it was happening. And, heres a link to where you can find pics of him laying on the sidewalk before aid was given.. SHAME ON YOU..

http://yeahitsnews.blogspot.com/2013/04/leaked-photos-of-boston-marathon.html

HUFFPOST SUPER USER
usacookie
610 Fans

02:30 AM on 04/17/2013

No, it is not true. The man in the wheelchair is not the soldier who was already an amputee.

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Phyllis Ruggiero Johnson
10 Fans

06:24 PM on 11/12/2012

What a wonderful story. I am humbled beyond belief at the fortitude and fight these soldiers come back with.

First of all I'd like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for serving our country. The price you paid is beyond what was expected and I am proud with what you have managed to do with your life through your adversity.
May your story continue to inspire others and may you keep doing all you need to do as you remain positive and brave. Carry on soldier. Live life to the fullest as it is obvious you were meant to survive and teach the world something.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER
eilish
Life ain't like a box of chocolates
1003 Fans

05:37 PM on 11/11/2012

I'm so happy for his recovery! It so easily could have been the worst, but this fighter is going to make it with the help of the rest of us.

I lived in a VA hospital for about 18 months while my son was being treated. I wish I could tell you all the stories of courage beyond anything I've ever seen, I wish you had the honor of knowing those young men and women as I got the chance to do.

One young soldier came in with a similar injury to my son's, half his head was simply gone. I have a photo of him with tubes everywhere and a tiny three week old daughter lying on his chest. Today Casey is an adorable, feisty 7 year old living with her dad who is doing pretty well other than losing much of his peripheral vision.

You see, his wife came to the hospital when he arrived from Germany, handed the three week old baby to her grandmother and left. Scott has raised Casey mostly by himself all these years since his recovery. What a remarkable young man he is.

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Phyllis Ruggiero Johnson
10 Fans

06:17 PM on 11/12/2012

Thank you for this post. I admire the courage of these brave soldiers. I follow many of them who are recovering on FB. It is incredible what they are accomplishing. My heart just beams with pride.

Reply

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MaryfromIL
1312 Fans

07:20 AM on 11/09/2012

Amazing courage and resilience. People can be very kind to those with disabilities like his, that will help him along his journey.

Very handsome young man, he should be able to lead a full life.

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kmclawson70
103 Fans

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02:14 AM on 11/09/2012

B'H! (Baruch Hashem- G-d Bless) to you Lt Vogt. Many nachas (good things) for you and welcome to cool club where we roll instead of walk!

Reply

Permalink | Share it

Pierre Trudeau
11 Fans

03:27 PM on 11/08/2012

Looking good!

Reply

Permalink | Share it

ArmyMedic
34 Fans

07:21 PM on 11/07/2012

Hooah, Brother!

Reply

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER
ladyrosedeky
556 Fans

05:17 PM on 11/07/2012

This is what is needed in our country. Our troops that serve together don't stop to ask do you think abortion is all right; what faith are you; are you Republican or Democrat (and there are a lot of Democrats that serve, remember both of Biden's sons were Marines for years); are you a tree hugger......

No they don't stop to ask or bicker over the what they don't have in common that would keep them from achieving what's important. What would keep them from getting the job done that they all need to get done collectively for the common good of them all. Or in this case, to save one. For them, they're all 'bretheren' no matter their differences -- they're the same.

This is what we as Americans and our leaders in Washington who represent need to come to realize. Drop what's different and ideology. Get to what's common ground to get the necessary job done. By coming together as our many men and women who serve us do everyday of their lives, we can and will make it. If we don't, we will fail.

Let First Lt. Vogt be our hero by his spirit's willingness to survive as a light to our country wanting to survive. Let his fellow service members example of how we need to be, joining together to get job done dispite differences to save each other, be our appreaciation for what he's given.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER
studiodanny55
191 Fans

12:53 AM on 11/07/2012

Look at this man smile! How petty my little problems seem in comparison to what he's been through. He's an inspiration and I hope we hear much more about him, his courage and what has motivated him.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER
medusa1000
625 Fans

09:10 AM on 11/07/2012

Awe inspiring. Bless them all.

Reply

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER
nitza417
24 Fans

08:48 PM on 11/06/2012

The Epitome of "I Will Never Quit" God Bless you Sir!

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HUFFPOST COMMUNITY MODERATOR
PeanutButterJellyGirl
"Elementary, my dear Watson."
391 Fans Follow

08:19 PM on 11/06/2012

Great story .. tears in my eyes.

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windchimelady
3 Fans

08:11 PM on 11/06/2012

I cannot believe that no one has yet posted anything on this brave young man's fight and courage to achieve what he has. My own son, as a turret gunner in Afghanistan, survived two tours. Thankfully, he came safely home to us. (He has also since re-enlisted in the Army National Guard). GOD BLESS this young man and his family. He has shown courage and determination outside and beyond the norm..... and deserves praise and recognition. Proud to be a Blue Star Mom and KUDOS to Nick and his family. I pray he receives the help and support he and his family deserve for his sacrifices for this country!

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