

## LISA WILSON BEATS ALL ODDS

Lisa Wilson, age 46, sustained a traumatic brain injury on December 11, 2000, age 36, resulting from a motor vehicle accident. Ms. Wilson's family was advised she would not likely survive and if she did was recommended for nursing home placement. Little did the clinicians know that Lisa would strive to not only survive the brain injury but to live, play and work again. Confined to a wheelchair, she aspired to inspire others around her.



Photo taken at 2010 Disabled American Veterans Kentucky State Convention

Larry Roberts, Kentucky State Commander of Disabled American Veterans (left), Lisa Wilson (center), Sam Booher, Kentucky Department Adjutant (right)

Prior to Lisa's brain injury, she served our country in Desert Shield in the Army, obtained her Registered Nurse Degree and worked as a nurse manager in a skilled unit of a local nursing home. Since her accident, she has regained her nursing license and serves our veteran's as a Kentucky State Service Officer with the DAV (Disabled American Veteran's). She also serves on the Kentucky State Executive Committee of the DAV and holds the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice.

Lisa also participates with the PAV (Paralyzed American Veteran's) in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. This event is held once a year which can be in any of the states. In July of 2010, the games were held in Denver, Colorado where she proudly honored her team with five metals. She received Gold in trap shooting, Silver in bowling and

javelin, and Bronze in soccer and air guns. Lisa credits her recovery and athletic success to the military stating, "If it wasn't for my military experience, I'm wondering if I would have been motivated to get out of my bed."

Lisa looks forward to competing in the Local and National games next year. In the meantime, Lisa continues to participate in her local bowling league, bass tournaments and trap shooting with the Wheelchair Veterans in Sports, a local organization that supports veteran athletes. Lisa exclaimed, "Nothing's been able to stop me. I do as much now as I did before."

Lisa also serves on the Cincinnati Veterans Administration Medical Center's Patient Advisory Committee using her medical knowledge and life experiences after sustaining a TBI to advocate for other veterans within the VA system. She was also a guest presenter in the 2009 Third Annual Northern Kentucky Traumatic Brain Injury Conference: "***Light on the Horizon - Brain Injured Persons in our Community***" held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center and serves as a member of the NKY TBI Conference Planning Committee.