

Adaptive Athlete of the Month Highlight

Rickey Riley

Branch: Army & Air National Guard

Years Served: 20 years

Rickey Riley is the VA SCI Recreation Therapy Adaptive Sports Athlete of the Month! Rickey served in the Army and Air National Guard as a Sargent First Class for a total of 20 years. Some highlights from his time in the service include his three trips overseas to Germany, eating the delicious food from the Hyvee at Camp Dodge in Iowa and receiving an award for his lifesaving efforts. Rickey was able to spot a man down in a field from his vehicle and alert emergency personnel, provide life saving efforts for the man and direct others in his unit for assistance, earning him the Lifesaving Award from the National Guard. Rickey was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

Rickey currently participates in a wide variety of sports with the VA SCI Recreation Therapy Program. Depending on the season, Rickey participates in Curling, Air Rifles, Trap Shooting, Bowling, Archery, Sailing, Kayaking, Boccia, Aquatics, Cycling and is a National Veterans Wheelchair Games Athlete. If you ask Rickey, his favorite sport is sailing because, "You are just sitting in the boat, blowing in the wind." Since becoming a participant in adaptive sports, Rickey's favorite memory has been, "Competing in the Motorized Slalom at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games - being a bundle of nerves watching every one go before me and then competing myself, taking 1st place in my division!" Rickey says that adaptive sports have helped him increase his overall mood and ability to do things. He also credits adaptive sports with an opportunity to get to know his fellow athletes and he has found a sense of purpose after his injury.