

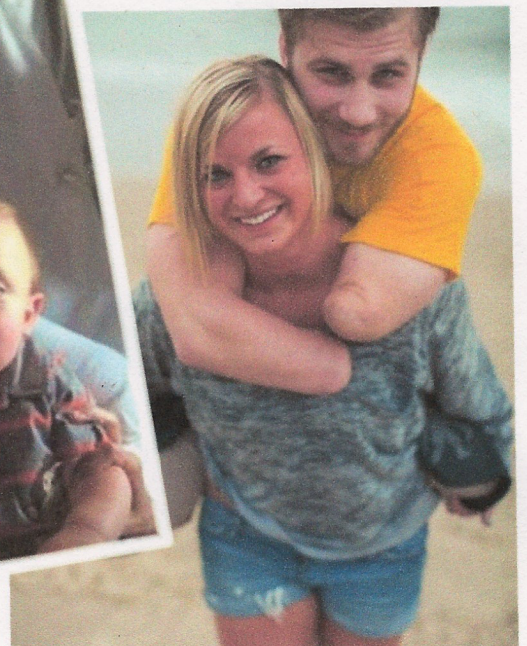
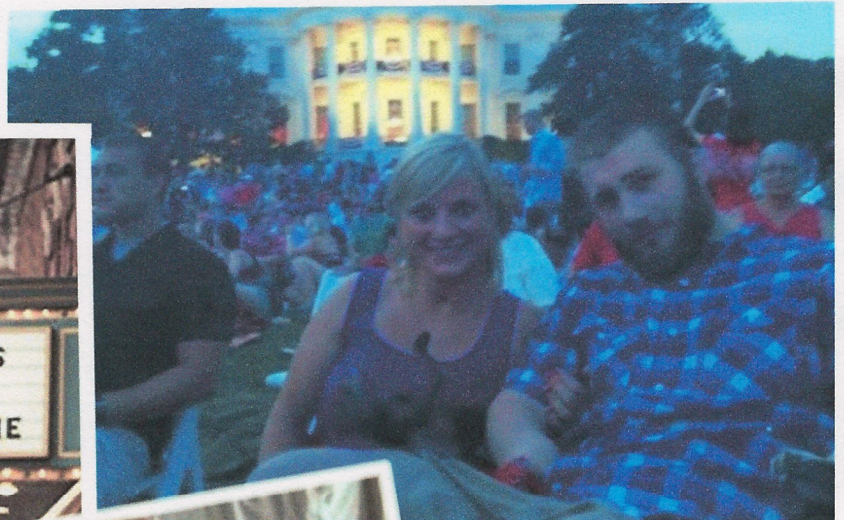
In a matter of months, Taylor made unbelievable strides in his recovery. Tim says the doctors at Walter Reed were beyond impressed.

Then of course, there is the love story. Tim says, and Taylor will definitely agree, that a large part of Taylor's incredible progress is due to the unwavering support of his longtime partner Danielle. After learning of Taylor's accident, Danielle quit a job she had held for just a few days to be by Taylor's side. She has been there ever since. "She doesn't even blink an eye," Tim says. "She didn't even question anything... That's one of those things we can all take a little bit from." She accompanies Taylor to his appointments, and pushes him to do things for himself, to be stronger, to work harder. And like any good relationship, he sometimes pushes back. "They have the same determination," says Tim. "It's not one or the other, there's no question. They just go for it. They just push each other really hard."

At the end of August, Taylor was planning to come home to attend a friend's wedding. It would be the first time his community would get to see him since the accident. His friends knew the people of Cedar Falls were dying to see their hero, but Taylor is nothing if not a humble man. So they decide to put together a parade. The parade route stretched the full three and a half miles from the airport to the center of town, and every part of it was crowded with people waving flags, and cheering to welcome a hero home.

Despite how far Taylor has come, there is a long road ahead, and a lifetime of challenges to face. But he is alive, and it is a victory Taylor gets to live every day. Taylor best embodies a phrase we have all drilled into our heads time after time but may never fully understand. Don't take this day for granted. Taylor may be missing limbs, he may be one of the wounded, like so many thousands before him, but he is also a victory of life and unconditional, unquestioning love. "I hope people read this and are inspired," says Tim.

"To know there are people out there that are made of a different cloth. That are superhumans."



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