



Marine Corps League Westfield River Valley Detachment 141 Westfield, Massachusetts 01085

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Granby's Wounded Warrior To Participate in Marine Marathon

Granby, Mass.—U.S. Marine Sergeant Joshua Bouchard, 28, of this town, who lost a leg in Afghanistan in April 2009, is getting ready to go the 26.2 mile distance in Sunday's Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C.

A public affairs spokesman for the Marathon said Bouchard, who is stationed at the Wounded Warrior Barracks at the new combined Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, will be one of about 130 disabled persons participating in the 36th annual run. "I intend to make it to the finish line," Bouchard said earlier this week. "We have another practice before Sunday."

The Granby Marine, a 2004 graduate of Amherst Regional High School and a life member of Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Marine Corps League, will propel a hand cycle on a path that courses through Washington's downtown streets, through Virginia and back into the Nation's Capital for the finish.

Bouchard has undergone a series of operations on his lower back as the result of shrapnel damage from the explosion under his Humvee that cost him a leg, the lives of two Marines riding with him, and wounding two other Marines.

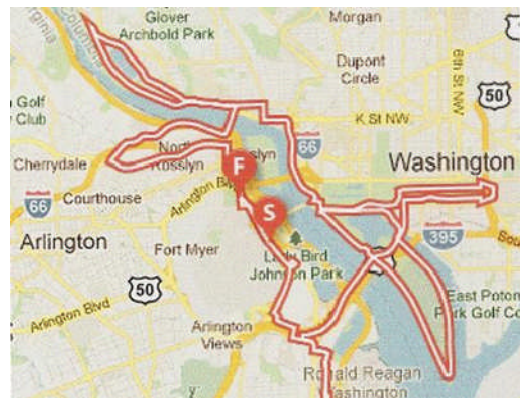
Despite his wounds, Bouchard has been determined to remain the Marine Corps but now expects to be medically retired as a sergeant within the next year. "Evaluations are still going on."

For most of this year, he has been treated at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, but when it was closed several months ago, he was transferred to Bethesda and the Wounded Warrior Barracks there. "I go for treatment and therapy several times a week."

Homes for Our Troops is planning to build a new home specially designed for Josh's needs within the next year. Financial donations and labor and material for the home are being accepted for the project. Contact aoster@homesforourtroops.org.



Sgt. Joshua Bouchard



Marine Corps Marathon 26.2 Mile Route

Marine Sergeant Joshua Bouchard was on his second deployment when he lost his left leg and broke his back after his vehicle drove over a pressure plated IED in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on July 8th, 2009. While out on a night mission, Sgt. Bouchard and four other Marines were injured in the blast; two of his team did not survive their injuries. Ejected from the vehicle, Sgt. Bouchard's left leg was severed by the gun turret, causing a traumatic amputation. When he hit the ground, his back was broken by the impact and he suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury. Lifesaving measures were performed and a tourniquet applied by one of his injured comrades helped stop his loss of blood. A British Royal Marine performed a direct person transfusion on-site to keep Josh from dying on the battlefield. Unconscious, Sgt. Bouchard was treated at a local hospital before being airlifted to Landstuhl, Germany where he spent two weeks being stabilized for transport to Bethesda Medical Center. Two weeks later he arrived at McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, VA and began his intensive rehabilitation, spending 11 months in therapies before being transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC where he remains at this time.