



SFC ELIZABETH MARKS

SPORT

Paralympic Swimming

COLLEGE

DeVry University

EVENT

Multiple

JOINED ARMY

July 2008

HOMETOWN

Prescott Valley, AZ

BRANCH

Active Duty

HIGH SCHOOL

Arizona Project Challenge

MOS

68W, Combat Medic

Elizabeth Marks joined the Army in 2008, shortly after her 17th birthday, continuing a family legacy of military service. While on assignment in Iraq as a combat medic, she sustained bilateral hip injuries. It wasn't until 2012, almost 2 years after injury, while recovering and trying to be found "fit for duty" that she discovered an unrealized gift for competitive swimming. Six months later she was accepted into the US ARMY World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) and found fit for duty as a 68w Combat Medic. Since then she has continued to participate and push herself to excel in a sport she has grown to love. 2014 Marks became rapidly ill while in London for the inaugural Invictus Games and was placed onto ECMO life support for respiratory failure, a life salvage operation. On July 11th 2017 after years of battling chronic regional pain syndrome, caused by her original injuries and her stent on ECMO, Marks underwent left below-the-knee amputation.

Marks competes in International Military sports against disabled men and women in track, field, swimming, and chair racing. However; Marks primarily competes in Paralympic swimming with a classification of S6SB6SM6 for the US Army World Class Athlete Program.

Marks continuously recognizes her gratitude for the opportunities she's been given, the skills she has developed, and the people in her life. Her father, a disabled Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran, has been instrumental in her success by encouraging her to identify her life goals and never give up. The Fisher House foundation has constantly supported her and her family on multiple roads to recovery. As well as her many Active Duty and Retired Military mentors for the guidance and friendship they have afforded her.

"For those who can't, I will.."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

First Paralympic female in the US Army World Class Athlete Program
 First Paralympic Swimmer in the US Army World Class Athlete Program
 Most decorated athlete in Army World Class Athlete Program history

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 2016 ESPY Pat Tillman Award Recipient
 2017 Inductee: Army Woman's Hall of Fame
 2023: Recipient of the Soldier for Life Award
 2024: Recipient of the Military Times Soldier of the Year award

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HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED:

13x World Record Holder
20x American Record Holder
2x Games Record Holder
1x World Championships Record Holder

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY WORLD TITLES:

CISM Racing wheelchair Gold: 100, 200, 1500m.

CISM Swimming Gold: Men 100m Breaststroke / Bronze: 50m Breaststroke; & 50m Backstroke

Military World Games Gold: Female Standing shot-put / Bronze: Men's T42 track 100m; 200m

Invictus Games Gold: 100m, 50m Freestyle, 50 Breaststroke & Backstroke

PARALYMPIC TITLES:

2023 World Championships: 2 Bronze 200 IM & 50 Butterfly

2022 World Championships: World Champion 20point Medley relay, World Champion 50m Butterfly S6, Bronze 50M Freestyle S6

2021 Paralympic Games Tokyo S6- Gold: 100m Backstroke, Silver 50m Freestyle, Bronze 50 butterfly

2019 World Championships: World Champion 100m Backstroke S7

2016 Paralympic Games Rio De Janeiro Gold:

100m SB7 Breaststroke (World Record) / Bronze: Women's 4x100 Medley Relay

2023

3rd place - Para Swimming World Championships, Manchester, England (200-meter indiv medley SM6)

5th place - Para Swimming World Championships, Manchester, England (100 backstroke S6)

1st place - Para Swimming National Championships, Charlotte, NC (50m Butterfly S6)

1st place - Para Swimming National Championships, Charlotte, NC (50m Freestyle S6)

1st place - Para Swimming National Championships, Charlotte, NC (100m Backstroke S6)

1st place - Para Swimming National Championships, Charlotte, NC (200m IM SM6)

2022

U.S. Para Swimming World Championships Team Member (2x Gold and Bronze Medalist)

1st place - Para Swimming World Series, Indianapolis, IN (100m Freestyle S6)

1st place - Para Swimming World Series, Indianapolis, IN (50m Butterfly S6)

1st place - Para Swimming World Series, Indianapolis, IN (50m Freestyle S6)

1st place - Para Swimming World Series, Indianapolis, IN (100m Backstroke S6)

1st place - Para Swimming World Championships, Madeira, Portugal (Mixed 50m Medley Relay)

1st place - Para Swimming World Championships, Madeira, Portugal (50m Butterfly S6)

3rd place - Para Swimming World Championships, Madeira, Portugal (50m Freestyle S6)