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Media Guide 2013





The 2013 Face of America

Changing Lives through Sports

World T.E.A.M. Sports



The **2013 Face of America** honors and assists our military – injured, veterans and active duty – and the true American Spirit. This is the **Face of America**, a two-day bicycle and hand cycle ride by disabled and able-bodied participants, along city streets and gently rolling country byways, from the Pentagon near Washington to historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

This inspiring ride is an opportunity to welcome disabled and able-bodied servicemen and women as teammates in an outdoor sporting event and show them how much America appreciates their efforts and sacrifices. Presented by Capital One Bank and sponsored by American Portfolios, Booz Allen Hamilton, General Electric, Penske Truck Rentals and other corporations, the Face of America is in its 11th year. Funds raised through the ride will pay for participating disabled veterans' transportation, hotels, food and support, as well as creating a safe ride experience for all participants. Remaining funds following the ride's conclusion will be dedicated to upcoming **World T.E.A.M. Sports** events for the disabled, such as our Adventure TEAM Challenge in Colorado, our Adventure Teen Challenge in Washington, and our bi-annual Sea to Shining Sea cross-country ride.

The **2013 Face of America** begins with a gala kick off dinner on Friday, April 26 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC-Crystal City, blocks from the Pentagon. The following morning, some 500 disabled veterans and able-bodied riders will gather at the Pentagon and ride through the grounds to the historic Iwo Jima Memorial before riding along beautiful country roads in rural Maryland to Frederick. Throughout the journey, local citizens will come out to encourage and support the riders. Along the route, there will be rest stops at local firehouses, schools and community centers. After spending Saturday evening in Frederick, the riders will head off early Sunday morning along picturesque roads into Pennsylvania. They will complete the Face of America Ride mid-day with a steak dinner set within Gettysburg's historic battlefields, joining other riders who rode two century loops from Gettysburg, providing opportunities for those seeking greater personal challenges.

2013 Face of America Schedule



Friday, April 26

12 noon. Registration begins at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC-Crystal City.
6 p.m. Dinner at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC-Crystal City.

Saturday, April 27

7 a.m. Ride begins at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Overnight in Frederick, Maryland. Metric century loop ride in Gettysburg. Dinner at the Wyndham & Courtyard at Gateway Gettysburg Hotel.

Sunday, April 28

7 a.m. Ride begins in Frederick and travels to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, followed by a gala celebration. Metric century loop ride in Gettysburg.

Ride Capacity

There is a limit of 500 participants in the **2013 Face of America**.

Event Contacts

Event Director: Van Brinson - vanbrinson@worldteamsports.org.
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World T.E.A.M. Sports CEO/President: Paul Tyler –
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Participation Fees and Fundraising Goals

Civilian Riders:	\$100 + \$750 fundraising
Retired Military Riders:	\$50 + \$500 fundraising
Active Duty Military Riders:	\$50 + \$250 fundraising
Disabled Veteran Riders:	No Fees

Entry fee and fundraising is applied to the following:

- Operating a safe ride through cities and towns, country roads and byways.
- Providing funding for injured service men and women to participate in the ride.
- Helping support future **World T.E.A.M. Sports** events which include teams of disabled and able bodied participants coming together to demonstrate what is possible when we work together. **World T.E.A.M. Sports** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization headquartered in Holbrook, NY. Support comes primarily from individual and corporate donations and sponsorships.

"For most people, the road to recovery starts when they enter a rehabilitation hospital. But for me, the recovery process started in March 2007 when I left my final rehabilitation hospital and joined a Team called **World T.E.A.M. Sports**. That's when I accepted the challenge of riding the Face of America Ride—my very first ride and a ride that changed my life! As I look back to the harsh reality five years ago knowing I would never walk again, I am extremely humble and grateful that the Lord put **World T.E.A.M. Sports** in my life to be able to give me challenges that would in the most positive way alter my quality of life."

- Eric Frazier, US Marine Corps., past Face of America participant and candidate for Paralympics Biathlon

Online: <http://www.faceofamericaride.com>



Face of America 2013

World T.E.A.M. Sports The Exceptional Athlete Matters

The 2013 Face of America ride is more than just a bicycle ride. It is an inclusive ride with both disabled and able-bodied participants. This year, more than 100 disabled American and



Canadian veterans who served in wars and conflicts from Vietnam through Afghanistan and Iraq will join 400 able-bodied active duty, retired military and civilians. These veterans will ride bicycles, recumbent bicycles and hand cycles for the 110-mile journey from the Pentagon to Gettysburg, as

well as the 100 kilometer circuits from Gettysburg.

Although many of these veterans have retired from their military service, some continue to serve their countries in active duty. Through conflict and illness, these veterans have sustained loss of limb, paralysis, loss of sight and medical conditions such as Post-Traumatic Stress. For many, the transition to civilian life after active duty is a challenge, particularly while recovering from an injury or illness.

Like all **World T.E.A.M. Sports** events, the Face of America ride changes lives, not only for the participants, but for volunteers, families and the public. Through participation in the ride, the disabled veterans regain confidence and leadership, and inspire others.



The 2012 Face of America. Van Brinson photograph.

Friday Evening Banquet Speaker



COL Gadson. Official photograph.

Iraq War veteran and a star of the 2012 theatrical film "Battleship," Army COL Gregory Gadson is returning to **World T.E.A.M. Sports'** Face of America ride this month as keynote speaker for the non-profit's April 26 commemorative dinner in Arlington.

The Chesapeake, Virginia native is a former participant of the Face of America ride, having ridden the 110-mile, two-day ride with a hand cycle. His participation in the non-profit's Washington to Gettysburg bicycle ride was only two years after a May 7, 2007 attack in Baghdad cost him both legs above the knees and limited the use of his right hand and arm.

At the 2009 Face of America, COL Gadson rode with 21 disabled veterans, 107 active and retired military and

167 civilians using a new pair of prosthetic legs. "This is my first long bike tour," COL Gadson told writer Bob Vogel, "I have a good team with me, and the ride is going well. Without the folks who are riding with me, I wouldn't be doing as well as I am. It's a team effort, not a race, and it's great fellowship."

COL Gadson will ride as an honored guest in the 2013 Face of America ride. "COL Gadson is the embodiment of what **World T.E.A.M. Sports** is all about," said the organization's Chief Operations Officer, Van Brinson. "His refusal to let what some would see as an insurmountable obstacle slow him down has turned him into a role model and an inspiration for those going through similar circumstances. COL Gadson is a motivation to each and every one of us, and we at **World T.E.A.M. Sports** consider ourselves fortunate to have him as an ally."

A West Point graduate, COL Gadson played football in high school and at the U.S. Military Academy. In 2007 the National Football League's New York Giants contacted COL Gadson to meet and talk with the team. Inspired by his courage, determination and positive attitude, the team began a playoff run that led to a Super Bowl Championship against the New England Patriots. At the National Football Conference Championship Game in Green Bay, Wisconsin, COL Gadson served as honorary co-captain for the Giants.

In 2012, COL Gadson appeared as Lieutenant Colonel Mick Canales, a disillusioned Army veteran who confronts alien invaders in Universal Pictures' science fiction theatrical movie, "Battleship." The \$302 million-grossing film was his first acting role.



COL Gadson at the 2009 Face of America Ride. Van Brinson Photograph.

Canadian Armed Forces' Soldier On Team Joining Ride

Seven veterans from the Canadian Armed Forces' Soldier On program will travel to Washington to participate in **World T.E.A.M. Sports'** Face of America bicycle ride.

Sponsored in part by American Portfolios Financial Services, the Canadian Armed Forces team includes veterans who served in wars and conflicts from Bosnia to Somalia, Cyprus, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Croatia. The six veterans will ride with Team American Portfolios in the 110-mile, two-day ride honoring veterans with disabilities.

Lon Dolber, the CEO and President of American Portfolios, notes "it will be a privilege to ride" with the Canadian Armed Forces veterans. Dolber notes that Canada and the United States have always been strong allies, are currently the world's largest trading partners and share the world's longest border. A **World T.E.A.M. Sports** director, Dolber participated with Canadian Armed Forces veterans in two earlier events from the non-profit organization, including 2009's Coastal Team Challenge in the Pacific Northwest.



"It is truly an honor to have these Canadian service members participate in our event," said Van Brinson, Chief Operations Officer for **World T.E.A.M. Sports**. "Events such as this strengthen the ties that bind our two nations together by highlighting the similarities that we share. The participation of the Canadian team adds another dimension the ride, and is something that we intend to expand in future events."

World T.E.A.M. Sports CEO and President looks forward to the participating veteran riders. "We welcome these soldiers from our great neighbor and partner to the North. We also want to thank them for the sacrifices they made for Canada and the greater cause of democracy."

The Face of America begins on April 26 with a gala dinner in Arlington, with an anticipated 500 participants, including more than 100 disabled veterans. The following morning, the riders set off to Gettysburg from the Pentagon, using bicycles, recumbent bicycles and hand cycles.

Master Warrant Officer Michael Fuentespina is the captain of the Canadian Soldier On team. Joining Canada Armed Forces in 1991 as a medic, he specializes in aeromedical evacuation. Completing a tour in Bosnia, as well as working with U.S. Forces in Germany and Afghanistan, Fuentespina currently works at the Canadian Armed Forces' Joint Personnel Support Unit in Winnipeg, Manitoba assisting ill and injured soldiers.

"The Face of America ride provides our injured veterans with an opportunity, outside of the deployed environment they are familiar with, to once again share adversity and build camaraderie with our American brothers and sisters in arms," said Fuentespina.

Master Corporal Tom Power joined the

Warrant Officer Fred Connor. Courtesy Fred Connor.



Canadian Armed Forces in 1989. Currently serving as an Aero Engine Technician in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Power spent time with Search and Rescue in Africa and Croatia. An active runner and triathlete, Power enjoys spending time with his family, camping, hiking, bicycling and talking to his dog while relaxing on his porch.

Master Corporal Brian Preece currently serves the Canadian Armed Forces through working on both fixed and rotor wing aircraft. Spending much of his career on Canada's east coast, he also has completed an operational tour in support of Middle East operations. Preece is an avid cyclist who enjoys riding his trike to work as weather permits.

Having been stationed in the Netherlands, Germany, Africa and Norway, retired Supply Tech and Signal Regiment veteran Dean Peach now lives in Nova Scotia. Originally joining as a reserve, Peach spent 25 years in military service.

A Combat Engineer who was deployed on six tours including Bosnia, Somalia, Afghanistan and Kuwait, Master Warrant Officer Michael Cotts retired from the Canadian Armed Forces in 2012. He joined the military in 1986.

Another recent retiree from the Canadian Armed Forces, Captain Sean Stadnisky has completed tours in the Middle East, Arabian Gulf and Afghanistan. Enrolling in 1997 as a Supply Technician, Stadnisky changed trades in 2007 to Personnel Selection Officer.

Retired Warrant Officer Fred Connor joined the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve in 1984. Two years later, he transferred to the Regular Force and became a cook. Prior to retiring in 2008, he completed tours in Cyprus and Croatia. Today, he spends his recreational time in vegetable gardening, fishing, practicing martial arts, and refinishing antiques. Connor is also an active cyclist and is looking forward to "being able to participate, get on the road, meet people, cry, persevere and to make lasting friendships."

Children's Chorus of Maryland Opens Banquet

The Children's Chorus of Maryland will open the annual Face of America banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC-Crystal City with a selection of patriotic songs, concluding in the National Anthem.

A non-profit organization that empowers musical children and promotes the fine art of music by providing music literacy, the Children's Chorus regularly performs in world-class venues such as the White House and Carnegie Hall, in collaboration with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Choral Arts Society and the Annapolis Opera Company and many others, and on tour to such places as Canada, Hawaii, Disney World, Vienna, Salzburg and Prague.



The Children's Chorus of Maryland: CCM photograph.

The Chorus achieves its mission in a music education and performance program dedicated to excellence, aesthetic sensitivity, play-based learning, respect, and diversity. Funding for the non-profit organization is through private donations, along with support from corporations and organizations such as Albert Kirchmayr, Allstate Leasing, John Hancock Company, Target, the Maryland State Arts Council, Baltimore Community Foundation, the United States Department of Education, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The entire **World T.E.A.M. Sports** team thanks the Children’s Chorus of Maryland for kicking-off our event,” said the organization’s CEO and President Paul Tyler. “It will create a memorable night for both able-bodied and disabled riders and set a great tone for the two days we will spend together on the road.”

“The Children’s Chorus of Maryland is delighted to be part of this important and worthy event. We know it will be a meaningful and inspiring experience for our young musicians,” said Jackie Henderson, the Children’s Chorus’s Executive Director.

Meet Select Participating Athletes

Participants in the 2013 Face of America ride come from 39 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and several Canadian provinces. These athletes include disabled veterans, active duty military, retired military, civilians and youth. For some participants, this will be their third or fourth ride; for others, 2013 is their first.

Here is a sampling of some of the disabled veterans who will be participating in the ride:

- **Geoff Moulton** – U.S. Army, 1967-1970. “I first rode in the Face of America four years ago as a means of giving back and assisting my fellow disabled veterans. Fortunately my disabilities are not as severe as others and I am able to provide assistance. I have made many friends over the years at this event and am inspired by all who participate,” said Moulton.
- **Kristine White** – In 2006, Kristine made the decision to serve her country and entered the Army. Sent to Fort Leonard Wood for Basic Training, she did well in training, five weeks in though, she experienced an injury to her right foot. This injury was ultimately the cause of her discharge late in the same year. After receiving an honorable discharge in late 2006, Kristine returned to her hometown, and attempted to pick up her life and move on. Feeling the disappointment and guilt over not being able to continue her military service, she began physical exercise. In 2011, while completing her Mission Continues Fellowship, Kristine found out about the Face of America Ride and attended. “Considering that it was my first time on a bike in over four years, that first year I think I completed 30 miles, last year... I did at least 67,” said White. “This year, I plan to ride what I rode last year, plus whatever else my body will push limits of doing.”
- **Duane Wagner** – “The difference between a successful person and others is not the lack of strength or knowledge, but rather the lack of will,” said Wagner. Enlisted in the Marines in 1965, Wagner went to Vietnam and served as an advisor to a Quang Tri village as security and forward intelligence. “On the morning of May 15, 1967,” Wagner recalls, “My camp was attacked and overran by enemy mortar and small arms. I received gunshot wounds and was hit by an enemy hand grenade, which blew off both legs below the knees. Though severely wounded, I dragged myself and another Marine to safety. For



Duane Wagner at CAF: Duane Wagner photograph.

that, I received the Silver Star." Years later, Wagner started riding and racing bikes and won several National Championships, as well as the Arete Award from ESPN and the U.S. Olympic Committee. "I do not have a disability," Wagner said, "I have an inconvenience."

- **Sarah Bonner** - A1C Sarah Bonner served in the United States Air Force from 2004 to 2006. She was a Financial Apprentice and was stationed at Ramstein Air Force. Sarah was injured in basic training and developed Chronic Bilateral Primary Lymphedema in her legs and also injured her feet while in the military. Since retiring from the military, Sarah returned to southwest Virginia. Currently living in Roanoke, Virginia, the 32-year-old attends Radford University. She will graduate in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, go on to graduate school, and hopes to work with veterans. "Riding a bike provides me a way to exercise and freedom from the injuries I deal with and forget that I'm disabled," said Sarah. "Riding with veterans allows me to connect with my brothers and sisters and a chance to be part of a team again. Just as we enter the military as individuals, we quickly become a team. On this ride, we come as individual veterans from all over the United States, and we unite again as a one team." The Face of America is an opportunity for Bonner to connect with other veterans and continue her recovery from PTSD, depression and anxiety. "I'm looking forward to making new friends and reconnecting with old friends and challenging myself. I ride for those that are unable to ride and for those who have left us too soon. I'm also riding to honor the city of Boston and those injured and the three young lives lost."
- **Daw Dekon** - Originally from the new country of Southern Sudan, Dekon was one of the thousands of the "lost boys" as reported in CBS News' 60 Minutes news program. "I was brought over to the U.S. in 2001 from the refugee's camp in Kenya," Dekon reported. "I joined the United States Army in 2005 and went to Iraq three times." His first time in riding with the Face of America, he reports he is pleased to participate. "I'm very honored to be part of this significant event as it brings together veterans across the nation. I thank you for what you do for veterans. By the way, I'm not just from Southern Sudan, but a citizen of the greatest nation on the face of the earth, the United States of America."
- **Grayson "Norris" Galatas** - "I served in the Army for 27 years, including four years spent at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C.," said Galatas. "I was serving in Iraq, the Iscondoria area with the 155th Separate Armored Brigade from the state of Mississippi from January 2005-April 2005. I was injured by an IED while driving a Humvee to recover a vehicle that had just minutes before been destroyed by an IED, killing one and injuring three." Now retired, Galatas looks to celebrate his "New Life Day" each April 19. "I was injured severely by the blast and was taken to the combat area support hospital in Baghdad. I was then operated on and received over 54 units of blood and would endure 18 surgeries in total. The injuries limit my ability to walk due to nerve damage to my right leg and foot. I also am limited to what I can now lift and suffer nerve damage pain on a continuous basis."
- **Paul A. Wolf** - "Being knocked down doesn't mean you can't get up," said Wolf, a retired USMC Sergeant. "Having spent three years in the hospital from wounds received during the Vietnam Era in the China Sea off the coast of the Philippines, I used to beat myself up a lot not knowing there were others that had the same stresses coming home. Public response didn't help things back in the 70's and 80's." A member of the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club, Wolf remembers his recovery after Vietnam. "Being bedridden almost the entire time. PTSD and numerous operations, re-attachment of parts of my right leg." Wolf decided to participate in the Face of America ride after training and meeting his friends Michael Manning, Bill Czyzewski and Mike Claver in the 2012 Sea to Shining Sea ride from **World T.E.A.M. Sports**. "They piqued my interest by challenging me to get involved. No more needed to be said. I am a Marine!"
- **Brian Birch** - Medically retired from the Coast Guard owing to Lyme Disease, Lieutenant Brian Birch reports he has been on two wheels "whether motorized or pedal powered since I could

barely walk." Following four years of treatment for his illness, Birch has hope that he can regain strength and mobility. "This ride will help me prove to myself, and to others with similar disabilities, that the disease does not own me. My spirit is still alive and strong within me," he said. "The ride is also for the people who have supported me. When I cross the finish line, I'll be thinking, 'Thank you Wife, thank you family, thank you all, I can ride again.'"

- **Adam McCann** – A former member of the U.S. Marine Corps, McCann was wounded in combat on April 24, 2005 while serving in Iraq. The Oberlin, Ohio native took shrapnel from two explosions to his neck and both legs. A recipient of numerous awards, including the Purple Heart, McCann currently serves on the Board of Directors for the USO of Northern Ohio.
- **Angel Vazquez Mercado** – New York native Sgt. Angel Vazquez Mercado lived most his life in Puerto Rico. Enlisting in the US Army at age 33 following the 9/11 attacks on America, Vazquez Mercado was deployed to several countries, including Honduras and the Dominican Republic before mobilizing for Iraq. In 2007, Vazquez Mercado was involved in three different explosions, a mortar attack and two IEDs, which required medical evacuation. During his medical treatment, he and his family moved to Pennsylvania, where his son was found to have Testicular Cancer. "He does not have cancer in his body now after long excellent treatment on Penn State Cancer Institute at Hershey," Vazquez Mercado reported. Both are planning to participate in the 2013 Face of America Ride. "This as part of a challenge we proposed that we will achieve together and is something we have never done," he said. "We believe that this activity will be very good for both to continue healing and improving our medical conditions and trust that God will never ever let us go through this condition and situation again that almost kill us almost simultaneously."
- **Glenn Goulet** – A participant from the 2012 Face of America and World T.E.A.M. Sports' 2012 Sea to Shining Sea cross-country ride, Glenn Goulet is pleased to be reunited with friends and other disabled veterans. "Being able to meet other veterans and share stories along the way is also a great way for me to deal with PTSD and my injuries," he said. "I can no longer run or compete in other sports, but I can still ride my bicycle. There is no race on these events and there are plenty of people who care enough to teach you a few technics to make your ride more enjoyable." Goulet has advice for his colleagues new to the ride. "I hope that many new riders on the 2013 ride are able to make friends and form a bond with your brothers and sisters of the armed forces that have served their country. Take the time to share your experiences with others from your hometowns and disabled veterans from your area."
- **Marino Libro** – A former Massachusetts police officer, Marina Libro was a member of the Army Reserve and active duty for 12 years. She retired on full disability as a result of various illnesses and injuries in January 2011. Discovering cycling as a part of her rehabilitation, she began riding on various challenges and rides. "I started to surround myself with soldiers and other people who made the same mistakes as me...but it was no big deal," she recalled. "I wasn't the only one standing around with a blank look on my face wondering why I was there, or seen backtracking because I went the wrong way again, or taking a picture of the sign board with the nightly instructions on it because I can't remember." Libro has a positive attitude toward participating in events. "I get to really work hard at something again and challenge my body both mentally and physically and see a positive result from it. I get to work in a team environment again as well ... and I had to let myself be helped, which was one of the hardest things I had to learn to do in a **very** long time." With her own adapted recumbent to use for training and in rides, Libro is appreciative of her mobility. "That bike is more than my life, it's my soul. I know it is. People say you can't see your soul, but I can every time I look at my bike."



Marino Libro in a recent ride. Marino Libro photograph.

- **Kerry Conway** – “This is my second Face of America ride,” said Sgt. Kerry Conway, who spent 11 years in the military, five years in active duty with the US Air Force. Conway also served in the active reserve. “I have a brain injury and two spinal cord injuries – the first from a fall off a cliff in Cuba during a search and recovery mission, the second from being shot down on the way back from Afghanistan,” Conway said. “Upon my return, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and seizures caused by my brain injury, but like I tell everyone, there is no ‘Dis’ in my ability, it’s just different.” Conway has a positive attitude. “Never give up, never give in, and never surrender. But above all, know it takes more strength to ask for help than it does to give it.”
- **Lance Abernethy** – Joining the military to “see the world, experience life and protect the way of life that I have always known,” retired Master Chief Petty Officer Lance Abernethy from the US Coast Guard said he has always been active. In April 2009, Abernethy was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. “As a result of the cancer surgery, I developed a heart condition,” Abernethy recalled. “I had heart surgery in November 2012 to correct this issue. The struggles to take back control of your life and body from something you had no control over is enlightening and challenging. Many of our fellow military members have to work to regain control of their lives from something they had no control over. Their spirit is reflected in the efforts of everyone in their lives and today in this ride.” Looking forward to the Face of America, Abernethy said “I ride today in honor of those who have gone before, as a guide to those who will follow and to support those regaining control of their lives. You are not alone.”
- **Michael Tilman** – A member of Tyler Hamilton’s Team on the Face of America, Michael Tilman is a Master Sergeant still on Active Duty, stationed in Fort Lee, Virginia. Just returned from a tour in Kuwait, he has been deployed to Afghanistan twice and once to Iraq. Retiring in January 2014

Michael Tilman and his new bike. Michael Tilman photograph.



from the Army, Tilman has served for over 19 years. “Participating in the Face of America Ride means the world to me and my family,” said the first-time participant. “Not only do I get to be a member of a wonderful team; I also get to represent Veterans from across this great country while raising awareness for those who have sacrificed so much!”

- **Bill Czyzewski** – A past participant of Face of America and World T.E.A.M. Sports’ 2012 Sea to Shining Sea cross-country ride, Bill Czyzewski is a 64-year-old Vietnam Veteran. “I was with the 11th Armored Cavalry (Blackhorse) from 1969-1970,” Czyzewski recalled. “I was shot on March 1, 1970. I didn’t do too much for about 40 years, ‘till a friend of mine turned me on to the hand-crank bicycle.” Known as “Mr. Bill,” Czyzewski

has participated in numerous events with World T.E.A.M. Sports and Ride2Recovery. “I am really looking forward to doing this year’s Face of America,” he said. “It is a great ride with some great camaraderie with a lot of great people.”

- **Victor Cramer** – A US Marine Corps Veteran, Victor Cramer served from 1977 to 1983. A helicopter mechanic, Cramer recalls “I was the crew chief for Presidents Carter and Reagan.” Following his retirement from the service, Cramer has worked as a civil servant for the Department of Defense. “I’m currently the Lead Contacting Officer for Research and Development Division at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Headquarters located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia,” he notes. Riding the Face of America for his first time, Cramer notes he had heard about the ride from a fellow Marine. “I am riding to support my fellow disabled veterans and raise money to provide support long after the ride.”

- **Jim Collins** – Serving in the US Army from 1968 to 1971, including two years in Vietnam, Jim Collins reports this is his first Face of America ride. “We can overcome any obstacle that stands in our way and gives us time to reflect on our fallen comrades,” he reports.
- **JD Caraway** – Returning from his deployment to Afghanistan, JD Caraway reports he received startling news. “I learned of the silent killer sitting in brain,” he recalled. “I received the news on April 9, 2010 – one day after my 42nd birthday – that I have a cancerous brain tumor. I would have surgery two short weeks later to determine the grade and type of tumor. Early diagnosis via MRIs indicated it was extremely aggressive; however, I would be given some good news if you can get good news after pathology reports returned which indicated it was a grade II tumor called an ‘oligodendroglioma’.” Undertaking 12 cycles of chemotherapy, Caraway displayed no side effects. “I went 15 months with no change in the tumor but recently found out it is starting to show some subtle signs of activity. Surgery is being considered again with a round of radiation to determine if the grade of the tumor has increased which would make me eligible for additional treatment options (clinical trials).” Despite the potential challenge, Caraway remains positive. “I show no visible signs at this stage and keep a very positive attitude based on the fact that I wake up each morning. I’ve been blessed to be married for 22 years to my very supportive wife Kristine. We have two beautiful children - Maddie and Jake - in college. I’ve transitioned to industry with a great company and live each day to the fullest.”
- **Daniel Wermuth** – As a young cyclist in 1973, Daniel Wermuth enlisted in the Navy and took his bike on board his ship. He was able to ride all over the world. “In October 1974,” Wermuth remembers, “I was working onboard in a ship harness hanging over the signal bridge. The bracket broke and I fell 30 feet to the main deck, breaking my back. My dream of riding from Coast to Coast was gone.” Retiring from the Navy, he went into law enforcement. In 1987, he retired from his second career and served as the owner/operator of his family photography studio in Florida for 22 years. “The years caught up with me and I had to close the studio, let go the staff of good people, and was basically confined in bed for two years from the old injury. “Depression and Diabetes drives one to a very dark place,” he said. “In October of 2012, I met a group of Veterans and a World T.E.A.M. Sports rider who told me just to get a damn bike and ride. With help learning how to ride again and how to set up a bike, I am an avid rider again. Thanks to that old Vietnam Veteran, Mr. Bill, who rode Sea to Shining Sea last year and encouraged me to just do it. In the last year, I have ridden over 7,000 miles in training and completed four Challenge rides with the Ride2Recovery.”
- **Gina Utegg** – Gina Utegg has long participated in **World T.E.A.M. Sports** events. Originally introduced to the non-profit through volunteering at Boston-area events, she participated in her first Face of America in 2009. “It opened my life up for so many more positive athletic accomplishments, successes, memories and friendships,” she reported. Representing the organization in the 2011 Nautica Malibu Triathlon in 2011, she also participated in the 2012 Adventure TEAM Challenge in Colorado. “Doing so well in the challenge and being a member of the first all-female team was likely one of the most amazing athletic events I have ever done.” “Being someone who has absolutely benefited and is humbled by the life-altering events that WTS sponsors and which help so many people,” Utegg encourages more participation in events by both disabled and able-bodied persons.
- **Maria Mietzner** – Retiring in 2011 after 22 years of service with the US Navy, Maria Mietzner was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress in 2009. In addition, she has had an orthopedic injury to her left knee. “Participation in Face of America will assist me gaining and sustaining strength, both physically and mentally,” Mietzner reports. “I am looking forward to sharing in camaraderie with my fellow brothers and sisters in Service.”



Maria Mietzner. Maria Mietzner photograph.

World T.E.A.M. Sports Changes Lives

World T.E.A.M. Sports The Exceptional Athlete Matters

World T.E.A.M. Sports changes lives through sports.

Celebrating 20 years in 2013, we have used athletics to challenge disabled and non-disabled men, women and children to accomplish goals they never thought possible. At all our events – whether mountain climbing, biking, white water rafting or many other sports –four things always happen:

- Disabled participants build self-confidence and physical fitness
- The disabled provide a role model for other disabled citizens, encouraging them to take up athletic activities
- The disabled provide a moving inspiration to other participants and to spectators when they see disabled individuals can reach goals and meet challenges beyond anyone's imagination
- The disabled and non-disabled participants become a team, working together to overcome those challenges

At **World T.E.A.M. Sports**, "The Exceptional Athlete Matters." Every participant in our events is exceptional. Disabled participants increase self-confidence, are a model to other disabled citizens, and inspire the able-bodied.

World T.E.A.M. Sports is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization headquartered in Holbrook, New York. Support comes primarily from individual and corporate donations and sponsorships.

Riders at the 2012 Face of America ride. Van Brinson photograph.



World T.E.A.M. Sports 2013 Events



- **Face of America**

- April 26-28
- **Location:** Arlington, Virginia to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
- **Event Type:** Bicycle ride
- **Presented by:** Capital One
- Annual 110 mile bicycle ride with members of the American Armed Forces – active duty, veterans and disabled – from our nation’s capital to historic Gettysburg. With 500 participants, Face of America is an inspiring

opportunity to participate in a great American event.

- **Online:** <http://worldteamsports.org/events/face-of-america/>

- **Adventure TEAM Challenge at Frost Valley**

- June 7-9
- **Location:** Claryville, New York
- **Event Type:** Multi-day, multi-sport team for disabled youth. Includes bicycling, hiking, water sports.
- **Presented by:** American Portfolios
- **Online:** <http://worldteamsports.org/2012/2012-frost-valley-atc/>



- **Adventure Teen Challenge**



- August
- **Location:** Washington, DC
- **Event Type:** Multi-day, multi-sport team for disabled youth. Includes bicycling, hiking, water sports.
- **Presented by:** Capital One
- **Online:** <http://worldteamsports.org/events/adventure-teen-challenge/>

- **Adventure TEAM Challenge**

- September 13-15
- **Location:** Grand Junction, Colorado
- **Event Type:** Multi-day, multi-sport team
- A multisport multiday team activity in the Colorado’s high desert brings disabled and non-disabled athletes together to reach a common goal. Featuring running, bicycling, kayaking, a zip line and other athletic challenges, the intense competition of the Adventure TEAM Challenge is thrilling for both participants and spectators.
- **Online:** <http://worldteamsports.org/events/adventure-team-challenge/>



More Events Coming Soon!

World T.E.A.M. Sports History

Celebrating 20 years in 2013, **World T.E.A.M. Sports** accomplishes our mission through adaptive sports challenges that serve and advance people with disabilities, including military veterans. Founder James Benson's vision to create a non-profit organization providing outdoor sports challenges to individuals living with disabilities helped found **World T.E.A.M. Sports** in 1993. The tragedy of the September 11, 2001 attacks on America, and the resulting influx of Americans joining the Armed Forces, helped guide **World T.E.A.M. Sports** in the decade that followed. With new determination, **World T.E.A.M. Sports** now focuses on creating outdoor events that include disabled veterans returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In doing so, we honor their sacrifices and deep commitment to our nation. As we have since our first event in 1987, our events bring together athletes with and without disabilities to go beyond what is thought possible in athletic achievement. Our high profile events include bicycle rides, multi-team events, climbs and other athletic challenges across the United States and the world.

Selected past **World T.E.A.M. Sports** success stories include:

Event Name	Bike	Climb	Multi-Sport Challenge	Notes
Ride Across America (1987)	X			2,650 mile bicycle relay with disabled
Kilimanjaro Confidence Climb (1990)		X		Disabled athletes climb Africa's highest peak; CBS Sports documentary: Emmy winner – Outstanding Program
AXA World Ride (1995)	X			13,000 mile bicycle adventure; NBC Sports documentary
Vietnam Challenge (1998)	X			70 member disabled team of former USA and Vietnam combatants; NBC Sports documentary: Emmy winner – Outstanding Program
Face of America: Cross Country (2000)	X			Cross country relay with 2 teams meeting at St. Louis Memorial Arch
Face of America: 9/11 Memorial Ride (2002, 2003)	X			Ground Zero, New York to Pentagon, Washington, DC memorial ride
Face of America: Washington to Gettysburg (2006-2012)	X			Washington to Gettysburg ride featuring disabled and non-disabled Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
Return to Kilimanjaro (2007)		X		Disabled athletes climb Africa's highest peak in this return event
Adventure Team Challenge (2007-2012)			X	Multiple 5-person teams compete in 2 day adventure race in Colorado's central mountains
Adventure Team Challenge: Frost Valley (2010-2012)			X	Multiple teams of able-bodied and disabled youth compete in 2 day adventure race in New York's Catskill Mountains
Adventure Teen Challenge (2011)			X	Multiple teams of able-bodied and disabled youth compete in 2 day adventure race in suburban Washington, D.C.
Military Initiative: Coastal Team Challenge (2009)				82 mile coastal kayaking event in the Pacific Northwest
Sea to Shining Sea (2010, 2012)	X			3,687 mile cross-country bike ride featuring disabled and non-disabled veterans
Military Initiative: Soldiers to the Summit (2010, 2012)		X		Inclusive alpine events for wounded warriors include climb of 2 high Himalayan mountains and winter sports at Snowbird, Utah resort



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