

SFC Elizabeth (Ellie) Marks

(Paralympic Swimming)



Hometown: Arizona

Current Home: Colorado Springs Colorado

Current Occupation: 68W (Combat Medic), Paralympic Swimmer for U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) - Swimmer, Paralympic Resident Team at the Olympic Training Center USA National A Team

Disability: Bilateral hip & (LE) injuries, ECMO Life Support (ARDS), TBI(s), (L) BK Amputation: Swimming classification S6,SB6,SM6

* Five time Games Medalist (2Gold, 1Silver, 2Bronze)

* Two time Paralympian (Rio and Tokyo)

* Four time World Championship Medalist (3Gold, 1Bronze)

* Avid advocate of military adaptive sports.

Quote: “For those who can’t, I will”

Personal Profile:

SFC 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 in 2010, she sustained bilateral hip injuries. It wasn't until two years after her injury, while recovering and trying to be found "fit for duty", she discovered an unrealized gift for competitive swimming. Six months later, she was accepted into the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) and found fit for duty. Since then, she has continued to participate and push herself to excel in a sport she has grown to love. In 2014, SFC Marks became rapidly ill while in London for the inaugural Invictus Games and was placed onto ECMO life support for respiratory failure, a life-saving operation. On July 11, 2017, after years of battling chronic regional pain syndrome, caused by her original injuries and her stent on ECMO, SFC Marks underwent left below the knee amputation.



SFC Marks competes in International Military sports against disabled men and women in track and field, swimming and chair racing. However, she primarily competes in Paralympic Swimming with a classification of S6SB6SM6 for the WCAP. She continuously recognizes how grateful she is 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 to never give up and the Fisher House Foundation for being a constant supporter of 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.

Personal/Professional Achievements:

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 US Army World Class Athlete Program history.
2016 ESPY Pat Tillman Award Recipient
2017 Inductee: Army Woman's Hall of Fame
10x World Record Holder
14x American Record Holder
2x Games Record Holder
1x World Championships Record Holder

International Military World Titles:

- **CISM Racing Wheel Chair** - 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:

- (2016) **Paralympic Games Rio De Janeiro** - Gold: 100m SB7 Breaststroke (World Record);
Bronze: Women's 4x100 Medley Relay
- (2019) **World Championships** - World Champion 100m Backstroke S7
- (2021) **Paralympic Games Tokyo** - S6 Gold: 100m Backstroke; Silver 50m Freestyle;
Bronze 50 Butterfly
- (2022) **World Championships** - World Champion 20point Medley Relay; World Champion
50m Butterfly S6; Bronze 50M Freestyle S6