

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **“Wounded Warrior” to Run in Saturday's 5K Race**

### *Amputee Veteran Has Only Been Running on Prosthetic Leg Since October*

Brian Hicks of Pike Road, Alabama is one runner competing in Saturday's Turkey Burner 5K race who can already be declared a winner, even before he ever crosses the starting line. That's because only six short weeks ago, he didn't even have a left leg to run on.

Hicks was injured when the military “Humvee” he was riding in crashed while he was deployed with his Army National Guard unit in Iraq. A previously existing nerve condition was aggravated by the wreck. Since the accident in 2003, ten surgeries have been performed to try to repair his left foot and control the pain, but the procedures yielded little success. Finally in April of this year, he and his doctors decided that the foot should be amputated.

Prior to the amputation Hicks was a triathlete and he wanted to be able to compete as a triathlete again one day. So, he did extensive research on the type of prosthetic devices that were available and then interviewed several prosthetic and orthotic companies in the area to determine who had the most experience with designing and fabricating prosthetics for athletes. He was impressed with what he found at Alabama Artificial Limb & Orthopedic Service (AAL&OS) and decided to allow them to be his prosthetic provider.

From that point on, staff members from AAL&OS were with Hicks through every step of the process. One of his prosthetists, Dan Smoker, C.P., consulted with the surgeon at UAB who would be operating on Hicks and was even in the OR during the procedure to apply a compressive dressing to help control post-op swelling.

“The AAL&OS guys stuck with me every step of the way,” said Hicks. “It was so nice for me to know that I had an advocate with me throughout the entire process; someone to assure you that it’s gonna be alright.”

“The support I’ve received from my family is unbelievable. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful wife and two sons to help me.”

After a long recovery period, Hicks was finally fitted with a prosthesis at AAL&OS' main facility in Montgomery. But it wasn't long before he yearned to do more than just walk. So, after consulting with his prosthetist and the VA, Brian decided that he wanted to be fitted for a special hi-tech running prosthesis. His wish was granted in October. He then set a personal goal to participate in the November 22nd Turkey Burner 5K run, which he will accomplish Saturday.

“From the beginning Brian has been very determined that he would return to running,” said Smoker. “Now that he has the Össur Flex Run foot, he certainly appears to be well on his way.”

Four members of the AAL&OS staff and fifteen *TeamAAL&OS* friends and family will be running along with Hicks in the race on Saturday. This commitment illustrates the level of support that the company routinely provides to their patients, especially those who are veterans.

“It has been a privilege for our team to work with Brian,” stated company president Glenn Crumpton, C.P.O., C.Ped. “We are committed to helping this wounded warrior return to the active lifestyle that he enjoyed before losing his leg. It will be an honor to participate with him in his first athletic event since his amputation.”

Alabama Artificial Limb & Orthopedic Service, Inc.(AAL&OS) is located at 1223 East South Boulevard in Montgomery. The company is a proud sponsor of the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that works to honor and empower severely injured service men and women returning from the current military conflicts abroad.