



PROSTHETICS  
CONSULTANT

# FREDERICK DOWNS, JR.

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## EXPERTISE

Prosthetics • Sensory Aids • Spinal Cord Injury • Vietnam War • Veterans Affairs Material Management • Orthotics • POW/MIA Affairs • Veteran Affairs Data Management • Medical/Surgical Standardization

## BACKGROUND

Frederick Downs, Jr., prosthetic consultant, is a decorated Vietnam veteran, published author, and a prosthetics and sensory aids expert. Since 2013, he has been Paralyzed Veterans' resident expert on prosthetics, orthotics and sensory aids service, providing information and relative research. He works with staff to draft policy papers, proposed legislation, congressional testimony, and publications that support Paralyzed Veterans' mission. As a key organizational representative, Downs also coordinates with other veterans service organizations and external stakeholders on related issues.

Downs served in the U.S. Army as an Infantry platoon leader. Severely wounded in combat, he lost his left arm above the elbow. Following his military service, he became the Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer and the Chief Consultant of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service for the Veterans Health Administration at the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also managed a nationwide prosthetics and sensory aids program that furnished assistive aids and services to 1.9 million veterans with disabilities including spinal cord injury, blindness, traumatic brain injury, amputations, and other physical disabilities.

Downs has also worked on special assignments for the Department of Defense and the Agency for International Development to develop prosthetic projects in areas of civil conflict. He was a key member of the humanitarian team established by General John W. Vessey, Jr. Presidential Envoy to Vietnam on POW/MIA Affairs.

## EDUCATION

BSBA, University of Denver  
MBA, University of Denver

## MEDIA EXPERIENCE

**Television:** PBS • NPR • CBS • NBC • C-SPAN  
*Larry King Show*

**Print:** *Washington Post* • *New York Times*  
*Paraplegia News (PN)*

**Books:** *The Killing Zone: My Life in the Vietnam War*  
*Aftermath: A Soldier's Return from Vietnam*  
*No Longer Enemies, Not Yet Friends*

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Silver & Bronze Star for Valor • Purple Heart (4) • Hall of Fame, Fort Benning Infantry School • Combat Infantryman's Badge • Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, Senior Executive Service • Presidential Points of Light Award • Vietnam Gold Cross of Gallantry • Alumni of the Year, University of Denver • Member, Screen Actors Guild • Citation of a Layman for Distinguished Service, American Medical Association • Clifford E. Brubaker Distinguished Lecture Series