

Cookies on the BBC website

The BBC has updated its cookie policy. We use cookies to ensure that we give you the best experience on our website. This includes cookies from third party social media websites if you visit a page which contains embedded content from social media. Such third party cookies may track your use of the BBC website. We and our partners also use cookies to ensure we show you advertising that is relevant to you. If you continue without changing your settings, we'll assume that you are happy to receive all cookies on the BBC website. However, you can change your cookie settings at any time.

✓ **Continue**

⚙️ **Change settings**

❓ **Find out more**

BBC



NEWS

Sections

England

Cambridgeshire

Invictus Games: Elizabeth Marks gives gold medal to Papworth Hospital

6 hours ago | **Cambridgeshire**

The moment Sgt Elizabeth Marks handed her medal back to Prince Harry

An American soldier has given her Invictus Games gold medal to the hospital team that saved her life.

Sgt Elizabeth Marks told Prince Harry, who presented her with the prize, to hand it to the medical team at Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire.

The swimmer, 25, from Arizona, became gravely ill when she collapsed with a lung condition on the eve of the first games in London in 2014.

"They absolutely saved my life and I can't thank the UK enough," she said.

Sgt Marks won all four swimming events she entered at the Invictus Games in Orlando for injured military personnel and veterans.

She chose to give her 100m freestyle gold to the hospital as it had been touched by the prince, who came up with the idea for the games.

[Read more on this story and other news in Cambridgeshire](#)




GETTY IMAGES

Sgt Marks won all four swimming events she entered at the Invictus Games in Orlando, Florida




PA/CHRIS JACKSON

Sgt Marks was in an induced coma for 10 days



PA/CHRIS JACKSON

Prince Harry found he was unable to fit into Sgt Marks' team jacket in the swimmers' tent



PA/CHRIS JACKSON

Prince Harry and Sgt Marks watched the track and field events at the games

Sgt Marks has served in the US army since she was 17, but in 2010 suffered a serious hip injury that left her with no feeling in her left leg.

Two years ago, she became very ill after arriving in the UK for the games.

She woke up from an induced coma 10 days later in an army hospital in Germany.

"I was in hospital in London and went into respiratory distress syndrome, they shipped a team down from Papworth who put me on to ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) life support and that ultimately saved my life," she said.

"But they absolutely saved my life and I can't thank the UK enough for having that kind of medical support and taking such good care of

me.

"So I gave Prince Harry one of my medals and hope it will find its way back to Papworth."

She also paid tribute to the NHS and said: "Thank you, I'll never be able to repay you, but what you're doing is wonderful."

Papworth's temporary chief executive said she was "delighted" by both Sgt Marks' "extraordinary" achievement and gesture.

Claire Tripp said: "We wish Elizabeth the very best and would very much like to meet her so we can thank her personally."

The hospital's medical director Dr Roger Hall said the team was "extremely proud" of Sgt Marks and described her donation as "generous and unexpected".

"Elizabeth's fantastic achievement is a good example of how modern medicine can support all of us to not only lead a normal life, following life-threatening conditions, but go on to achieve truly amazing accomplishments," he said.



Share this story

About sharing



More on this story

Prince Harry's Invictus Games get under way in Florida

8 May 2016

Boom! My dad's taking part in the Invictus Games

5 May 2016

Invictus Games: Queen 'deeply moved'

15 September 2014

What are the Invictus Games?

10 September 2014

Related Internet links

Invictus Games Foundation

Papworth Hospital

The United States Army

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external Internet sites

Cambridgeshire



As it happened: Cambridgeshire Live
Cambridgeshire



Navratilova becomes honorary fellow
12 May 2016 | Cambridgeshire



Pizza deliverer dies after attack
11 May 2016 | Cambridgeshire

From other local news sites

Vandals strike at Wisbech cemetery

Fenland Citizen

Wisbech girl says thank you for new wheelchair

Fenland Citizen

Bail for man arrested on suspicion of murdering Andrew Bedford

Hunts Post

About these results

Top Stories

Defiant Rousseff condemns impeachment

Trump and Ryan 'committed to unity'

Zimmerman handgun 'removed from sale'



Poisoned river

Can the Ganges be saved?



King of chess

The man who's made St Louis the world capital for the game



Pushing the boundaries

Eurovision artist stretches rules with song from Ukraine



► 5:53

Words have consequences

How Obama's olive branch to Cuba prompted a new exodus



Maya or marijuana?

'Ancient city' identified by teenager may be cannabis field



Brought to heel

Office dress codes cause headaches for employees



Disappearing act

The school that was swallowed up by the sea



Rock rumble

Is it 'ludicrous' to ban climbers from Uluru?



Toxic talk

The problems of trying to lip read in China

Most Popular

Read

Watched

Leicester star escapes community service	1
Trump and Ryan 'committed to unity'	2
Rival fans 'together' at Euro 2016 game	3
Invictus swimmer gives medal to medics	4
The Queen wins £50 Tesco voucher	5
Defiant Rousseff condemns impeachment	6
How Donald Trump captures the White House	7
Zimmerman handgun 'removed from sale'	8
Eurovision's Ukraine singer Jamala pushes boundaries on Crimea	9
Blogger reveals parking ticket errors	10

Sections



BBC News Services

On your mobile

[On your connected tv](#)

[Get news alerts](#)

[Contact BBC News](#)

Explore the BBC

[Sport](#)

[TV](#)

[CBBC](#)

[Food](#)

[Bitesize](#)

[Arts](#)

[Taster](#)

[Weather](#)

[Radio](#)

[CBeebies](#)

[iWonder](#)

[Music](#)

[Make It Digital](#)

[Local](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Contact the BBC](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

Copyright © 2016 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **[Read about our approach to external linking.](#)**