Rochester media reports on amputee and retired Marine Danny Thomas' new bionic leg

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Rochester, N.Y., January 11, 2012 – 46-year-old Rochester, New York resident Danny Thomas is the first civilian in Rochester and one of the first 25 in the nation to be fit with a new bionic prosthetic leg developed in collaboration with the U.S. Military called the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System. Launched summer 2011, the Genium combines a complex sensory system with sophisticated rule sets to create the world's first intuitive knee, allowing patients to immediately change speeds, walk up stairs, backwards, multi-directionally, over obstacles, and in wet rugged environments – all with greater efficiency.

Thomas recently spoke to several local media outlets about the new technology and the difference it is making in his life:

-*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*: **Bionic leg lets amputee do more and inspire others**
-*Finger Lakes Daily News*: **Rochester veteran one of the first to receive bionic leg**
-YNN Rochester: **Veteran receives bionic leg**
-WHEC-TV (NBC): **Local, retired Marine receives bionic leg**
-WROC-TV (CBS): **Rochester veteran gets bionic leg**
-WHAM-TV (ABC): **Local man gets first intuitive knee ever created**

About Danny Thomas – In 1986, following a six-month tour of duty in the Middle East with the Marines, Danny Thomas returned to duty at the Camp Lejeune base in North Carolina when tragedy struck. He was working with a 50-pound oil barrel when it exploded, engulfing him in flames and throwing him 25 – 30 feet. The explosion resulted in burns on 86 percent of his body, the loss of all of his fingers and an ear, and necessitated the amputation of his left leg above-the-knee. Doctors initially told Thomas' mother it wasn't likely he would survive and if he did, he would never walk again, but Danny proved to be a fighter. After spending a significant amount of time in a coma, more than a year in various hospitals all the way from San Antonio, Texas to Washington D.C., and undergoing several reconstructive surgeries, not only is Thomas thriving with the new Genium bionic technology today, but he is serving as an inspiration to others. Thomas is an Amputee Empowerment Partners (AEP) trained visitor, providing peer-to-peer support visits with people who are about to face an amputation or have recently undergone an amputation, and speaks at churches and hospitals, working to inspire everyone around him.

About the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System – Developed in collaboration with prosthetics manufacturer Otto Bock Healthcare and the U.S. Military, the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System is the world's first intuitive knee. The Genium uses advanced-process measuring and control technologies that allow patients to walk with greater efficiency, as well as up stairs, backwards, multi-directionally, and over obstacles. It does this by combining a complex sensory system (including an accelerometer and a gyroscope) with sophisticated rule sets to offer unique features that optimize gait and increase confidence. For more information on the Genium, visit http://www.hanger.com/prosthetics/services/Technology/Pages/Genium.aspx.

About Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics – With 28 patient care centers in New York and 670+ nationwide, the certified clinicians of Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics provide patients with the latest in orthotic and prosthetic solutions, including microprocessor devices for those with limb loss and neuromuscular technologies for those with paralysis due to stroke, MS and other debilitating conditions. For more information, visit www.hanger.com.

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