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## **Obama lauds local veteran**

### **Greenfield man named in president's speech to Disabled American Veterans**

*By Jesse Garza of the Journal Sentinel*

Aug. 2, 2010 | (64) COMMENTS



Matt Seidl

After seeing the emotional and physical scars left on their son from his tour of duty in Iraq, Tom and Bev Seidl of Muskego said it felt great to hear that he had the national spotlight cast upon him Monday by the president of the United States.

"Needless to say, we are very proud of him," Tom Seidl said of his son, former Army Spc. Matt Seidl, who was mentioned by President Barack Obama on Monday during his address at the Disabled American Veterans convention in Atlanta.

Matt Seidl, 23, of Greenfield, a national service officer with the organization, was wounded three times while serving for 14 months in Iraq in 2006 and 2007, his parents said. He is a recipient of the Purple Heart.

During his address Monday, Obama pointed out how Seidl and several others present were among the thousands of U. S. service members who helped restore order to the war-torn country.

"When terrorists and militias plunged Iraq into sectarian war, our troops adapted and adjusted - restoring order and effectively defeating al-Qaida in Iraq on the battlefield," Obama said. "And among those who served in those pivotal days was a scout with the 1st Cavalry Division - Specialist Matt Seidl."

A 2005 graduate of Muskego High School, Seidl served as a gunner and driver for Humvees and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

He was wounded twice by improvised explosive devices and once by shrapnel from a missile that struck his base, his parents said.

Matt Seidl's upper arm bears a tattoo with the names of several comrades killed in Iraq, along with the statement, "See you on the other side," his father said.

"It was obviously rough for him," Bev Seidl said. "We're just very happy he made it through it, and that he had the opportunity to meet the president."