

For Immediate Release

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BIONIC KNEE IS MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTER'S NEXT STEP Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics First in New England to Fit Knee

NEWTON, MA – A Melrose firefighter who lost his leg in the line of duty six years ago will be the first patient in New England to receive a revolutionary new bionic knee that developers say “redefines the quality of life” for the user.

Today Neil Sullivan ventured to Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics to be fit with the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System, a one-of-a-kind prosthetic knee whose different modes allow for activities that include easily stepping over obstacles and ascending stairs. Similar to using the remote of a TV, Sullivan will be able to program the knee for activities such as golf, biking, walking or running with a simple flick of a switch. Next Step is the first prosthetic facility in New England to fit the knee, which is now available in limited quantities.

“I’m excited to be able to fit Neil, allow him increased mobility, and a chance to do so many of the things we all take for granted,” said Next Step Prosthetist Arthur Graham, CP. “This knee allows for the most natural, intuitive motion possible and bridges the gap between the body’s natural abilities and artificial replacements. It’s a technological marvel that changes lives for the better.”

Pioneered by Minnesota-based Otto Bock HealthCare, a global leader and innovator of microprocessor controlled knees, the Genium Bionic Prosthetic System is designed to closely match natural physiological movement to reduce strain on the hip and lower back and allow more spontaneous motion. This significant improvement in wearer comfort is complemented by the simplification of numerous activities of daily life.

“The Genium is the first of a whole new generation of microprocessor controlled, intelligent leg prostheses,” said Otto Bock U.S. HealthCare President/CEO Brad Ruhl. “We’re thrilled to be able to partner with innovative companies like Next Step.”

“I’m excited about what this could mean for me and for my family,” said Sullivan. “I’m honored to be the first person in New England fit with the new knee and eager to share my experiences with anyone else in my situation. This is a true blessing.”

Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics has three offices located in Newton, MA, Manchester, NH and Warwick, RI. All Next Step clinicians are Genium certified.

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