

## Joey Brinson

August 22, 1976 – October 4, 2019

Joseph “Joey” Brinson was born August 22, 1976 in Florence, Mississippi where he lived all of his life. He was a 1994 graduate of Florence High School where he played football was championed the Defensive Back of the Year. That same year, at the age of 17, he was involved in an auto accident leaving him paralyzed. He stayed active after his accident, playing sled hockey and snow skiing in Colorado. In 2006, Brinson was introduced to wheelchair fencing at a sports clinic at Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson, Mississippi. "It was something I loved the first time I did it and I couldn't wait to do it some more."



*Brinson (center) before the 2016 Paralympic Opening Ceremony with Team Leader Ginny Boydston and teammate Lauryn DeLuca.*

Brinson was a founding member of Methodist Rehabilitation Centers wheelchair fencing team, the Blade Rollers, started in 2006. The Blade Rollers have the largest wheelchair fencing team in the country and Brinson soon became the first Mississippian to make the U.S. Wheelchair Fencing Team.

Brinson traveled the world competing and won gold in wheelchair sabre at the 2012 USA National Championships. He won silver in the foil contest and bronze in epee at the 2011 Zonal Championships in Brazil where he qualified for the 2012 Paralympic Games. Brinson went on to represent Team USA for a second time at the 2016 Games in Rio. He went on to win his fifth career National Championship in 2018 with titles earned in epee, foil and saber over the course of his career.

Eighteen months after competing for the last time, Brinson passed away in 2019 at just 43 years old.