MIDWEST EVENING OF TRIBUTE

On September 4th, hundreds of patriots, executives, and heroes filled the Hilton Ballroom at 720 S. Michigan Avenue as friends and supporters of the Navy SEAL Foundation assembled for the 2019 Midwest Evening of Tribute.

This yearly event held in Chicago which draws attendance from all over the Midwest, recognizes the courage, commitment and sacrifices of the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community, giving attendees an opportunity to show their gratitude and support for these outstanding warriors and families. This year's event raised over $3 million in support of the Navy SEAL Foundation’s mission, bringing the total raised to nearly $18 million dollars over six years.

The evening began with a VIP roundtable discussion and cocktail reception. The discussion was lead by Bob Loquercio, event Chairman and CEO/President of Bob Loquercio Automotive Group, and speakers included former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and Shannon Sedgwick Davis, CEO of the Bridgeway Foundation, who shared personal stories with those in attendance.

As the beautifully decorated second-floor ballroom opened, guests made their way to their tables and viewed the presentation of the Colors by the Chicago Police Department’s Color Guard. Next, award-winning singer and Chicago local, Jim Cornelison sang a moving rendition of the National Anthem.

The evening’s Co-Chairs Veronica and Bob Loquercio took the stage...
where Bob graciously welcomed attendees. He emphasized the importance of events such as the Midwest Evening of Tribute and mission of the Navy SEAL Foundation and recognized attending military members, NSW members and their families, Gold Star and Surviving family members, and the evening’s honored guests. He then introduced special guest, Rear Admiral Jaime Sands, Commander of Great Lakes Naval Training Base, who recognized Robin King, Chief Executive Officer of the Navy SEAL Foundation, by presenting her with the USSOCOM Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

Next, retired Rear Admiral Brian Losey took the stage and presented Shannon Sedgwick Davis, philanthropist and best-selling author of To Stop a Warlord, with the distinguished 2019 Navy SEAL Foundation “Fire in the Gut” Award for her dedication to fighting injustice and her determination in helping others. “She has committed her life to negating human suffering, to making life better for people and to traveling to places where the greatest common denominator is human misery,” said Losey. “She’s been very consistent in her efforts to bring good things to people who need good things to happen to them. I’m very proud to call her teammate.”

Upon accepting the award, Ms. Sedgwick Davis thanked those who have made her life’s work possible, including her family members who were in attendance. “As someone who has the good fortune of having a supportive spouse and parents at home while I am away, I want to thank the family members of the Naval Special Warfare community and applaud the work of the Navy SEAL Foundation. Their loyalty, dedication and sacrifices do not go unnoticed. The families truly serve the broader mission in ways that can never be quantified,” said Ms. Sedgwick Davis.

After dinner, Rear Admiral (SEAL) Sean Pybus, USN, (Ret.) chairman of the Navy SEAL Foundation, thanked supporters and then shared a personal story of his connection to the family of SEAL Michael Monsoor, who was killed in action when he made the choice to shield his teammates from an enemy grenade. He then gave a moving tribute to the Fallen members of the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community.

Those in attendance were treated to an entertaining live auction and paddle raise led by Ben Farrell.

Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, delivered the evening’s keynote address and was introduced by Co-Chair Bob Loquercio. Ambassador Haley’s remarks focused on the sacrifices that military families make in service to the United States, and she emphasized the importance of all Americans promoting inclusiveness and tolerance for those who are different. “There are so many more things that we have in common than there are things that separate us,” said Haley. “There is no better country in the world...it’s not even close. And for that we can thank the Navy SEALs, we can thank the families who love and support them, and we can thank the Navy SEAL Foundation which does so much to honor our warriors and support their families.”

Notable attendees of the event included Veronica and Bob Loquercio, Kristina and Mike McGrath, Former Governor Pat Quinn, Col. Jennifer Pritzker, Jim Cornelison, Representative LaShawn Ford, Mamie and Greg Case, Stacie and Richard Stephenson, Richard Porter, Craig Duchossois, Susan and Rick Lenny, Sandi and Bill Strong, Kristen Hertel and Muneer Satter, Andrew T. Berlin, Ida Sawyer HRW, John Montgomery Bridgeway Foundation, Katie and Brent Gledhill, Shelley and Brett Paschke, Michael Spence of NEX, Anne and Ty Fahner, Jay Bergman, Todd Ricketts and Sylvie Légère, among others.
Congratulations are in order!

We are so excited to share that Robin King, CEO of the Foundation, has been awarded the **USSOCOM Outstanding Civilian Service Medal** for her exceptionally meritorious service and dedication to the Navy SEAL Foundation and USSOCOM.

The USSOCOM established the award of the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal in 1998 to specifically recognize individuals who have provided outstanding support or service to the mission and the men and women of Special Operations Command.

**RDML Jamie Sands**, Commander of Great Lakes Naval Training Base, presented the award to Robin on behalf of the Commanding General Rich Clarke, Chief Master Sergeant Greg Smith, and Vice Admiral Tim Szymanski at the 2019 Midwest Evening of Tribute in Chicago on September 4th.

Ms. King graciously accepted the award and credited her teammates for their dedication to the mission of the Foundation. She then spoke about the purpose and history of the Navy SEAL Foundation and how teamwork is integral to the success of its programs. She shared how working together to reach a common goal of sustaining the warriors and families the Foundation supports is making a difference in their lives and thanked attendees for the role that they each play.

Congratulations, Robin and everyone who works to make the mission of the Foundation a reality!

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**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST TEAMMATE:**

The NSF is proud to welcome Carolyn Petschler to the team! Carolyn is a Navy veteran and an accomplished professional with a passion for helping others. We are excited to have her join us as the Director of Development for the Northeast Region. Please join us in welcoming her!
Back in June, NSF shared that a SEAL who was injured during combat had been moved out of Walter Reed and gone home to Richmond because of the progress he’d made in his recovery. Unfortunately, he has had a setback in his recovery and was readmitted to Walter Reed Medical Center. To put this service member’s injuries in context, he has been an in-patient at WRNMMC ICU and has endured 30+ surgeries there during the last five months. NSF’s programs staff continues to coordinate with the USSOCOM Care Coalition and Command regarding his care. We are providing hyperbaric therapy in conjunction with command rehab to increase his chances of returning to full duty and we wish him the best as he works to make a full recovery.

SOCS (SEAL) Chad Wilkinson’s interment was held on August 19th, 2019, at Arlington National Cemetery. NSF supported travel and accommodations for teammates, family, and friends to attend the ceremony and reception immediately following. NSF staff and NSW command members were in attendance.

This month there was an unusually high number of both SQT and BUD/s students who were in need of assistance. These candidates have unique needs when it comes to care and recovery because of their standard accommodations: barracks. As you can imagine, due to limited access and space, recovery in the barracks can be very challenging!

(continued on page 5)
In each of the care requests we received, NSF was happy to step in and help. We flew in a member of the family to act as a caregiver and we continue to assist. We are happy to fill this gap in care which is not covered by NSW yet ensures the students get the best possible outcome.

WARRIOR AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Survivors of Suicide Discussion

In the past month, NSF staff and clinical providers held a second round table conference with several surviving family members who lost their son or husband to suicide. Our goal for these interactions is to better understand the signs, symptoms, and behaviors that these family members observed before the loss, as well as learn more about what type of support they need as they navigate life afterward. We are honored to share that many of these families will be in attendance as special guests at the 4th annual NSF Impact Forum, held September 30-October 1, 2019.

In a recent case, the young daughter of an active-duty service member was diagnosed with a very rare and potentially life-threatening genetic condition. At the time of her diagnosis, their other young child was being admitted to the hospital with a viral infection which also infected other members of the household.

This NSW family had no one who could travel and provide extra support to them. Mom was needed at the hospital so that she could care for their young son and the service member was trying to work while caring for their daughter at home. NSF arranged for a caregiver for the daughter while dad is at work, and we are providing additional support via food and transportation assistance for the next few weeks while the family gets well and establishes a routine in their “new normal” life.

The Navy SEAL Foundation’s annual Princess and Her Frog Father-Daughter Dance took place in both Hawaii and Mississippi in support of local commands on Saturday, August 24th. 190 NSW fathers and their daughters enjoyed an Enchanted Evening filled with activities, sweet treats, and plenty of dancing.

Supporting the families of NSW in challenging times is one of the pillars of our mission. When the unexpected happens and the family does not have time to think, let alone plan, NSF goes into action mode to make sure they have all that they need.
This cherished event allows fathers to have valuable one-on-one time with their daughter(s), which is not always common in this community, in a special and memorable way. We are honored to fund this beloved event each year for the community's amazing fathers and their daughters.

“The event was perfectly geared towards the age group. I loved how thought out everything was and the effort put forward to entertain and make the night so special. Also, the setting was amazing!”

“The entire event was absolutely great!! Thank you so much for supporting us with this. My daughter and I have been coming to these for many years, and sadly she's off to college next year, so this was our last one. Thank you for an awesome send-off. Keep doing these. It's super important for Fathers and Daughters to have something like this for just us. Many Mahalo’s to the NSF for everything you continue to do in support of our community.”

**LEGACY PRESERVATION**

**SO2 Shapoor Alexander Ghane CQC Facility Dedication**

The Navy SEAL Foundation was honored to host an event of significance in honor of SO2 Shapoor Alexander Ghane who was killed in a training exercise in 2008. On August 19th, we provided support for the building dedication ceremony which took place at Camp Michael Monsoor.

NSF helped bring SO2 Ghane’s immediate family to the ceremony and we hosted a reception for the command to celebrate this significant honor. His mother could not have been more grateful to be part of this legacy moment; she called NSF and said this was the first time since she lost her son that she felt this happy.

**WARRIOR TRANSITION**

Our partners at **The Honor Foundation (THF)** are back in session and continuing to do great things for our transitioning NSW servicemembers! Both campuses are in full swing with 31 NSW Fellows in San Diego and 33 in Virginia Beach. This is the first time the Virginia Beach cohort has surpassed San Diego which clearly shows the hard work and dedication the THF team puts toward our community!

NSF also sponsored a **Frogman Reconnect (FR)** in Denver this month which was spearheaded by one of our beloved NSF Ambassadors. This event reunited 13 SEAL brothers, some from as far as a 3-hours away! We know that **strong social networks are one of the keys to strengthening individuals**. Our Frogman Reconnect program is gaining tremendous momentum nationwide and proving once again the Navy SEAL Foundation is listening and meeting the needs of the community!
ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

Next Step is designed for military veterans and elite athletes who are preparing to take the next step in their careers. This general-management certificate program helps veterans and athletes develop a foundation of essential business skills and translate their unique experience into sought-after professional competencies.

Tuck’s world-class faculty, powerful career development network, and historic campus make the Next Step experience truly unparalleled. The program takes place in two phases: a robust digital phase of live and asynchronous online coursework and a residential phase that takes place at the Tuck School of Business. The residential phase of our upcoming program is April 5-16, 2020, after the roughly two-month digital phase.

Applications are now open for the TUCK 2020 Spring Cohort! For more information or to apply, visit https://nextstep.tuck.dartmouth.edu/

NSF is currently supporting 9 NSW service members in this two-week intro to business course.

“The Tuck Next Step program is INCREDIBLE! I don’t think anyone in the cohort can stop talking about our experience. Leaving campus was truly difficult. I can’t recommend this program enough!”

“This was the best two weeks that I can remember in my personal experience in any academic setting at both military and civilian campuses. I could not have imagined how relevant and appropriate each class was in both content and presentation. This is a fantastic curriculum and could not be tailored any better for its intended purpose and audience with various individual interests. Really well done!”

“Cannot overstate the value of this program. Thank you to all involved, which was a tremendous value-add to my transition experience. I feel lucky to have been involved.”
TEAMWORK is not a competition and there is no leaderboard other than the one for fundraising. The goal of this event is to work together as a community to generate awareness, funds, and support for the NSF and those we serve. There is a $24 registration fee for all participants and 100% of the proceeds from registration, as well as additional fundraising, will be donated to the Navy SEAL Foundation. While there are no fundraising requirements, gyms are encouraged to set a fundraising goal of at least $1,111 in honor of Veterans Day (11/11).

Please spread the word and post pics on social media with #NavySEALFoundation and #NSFTEAMWORK.
NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION'S

JOGGIN' FOR FROGMEN 5K AND TADPOLE TROT

100% OF THE PROCEEDS EXCLUSIVELY BENEFITING NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION

UPCOMING RACES

ALEXANDRIA, VA 10.5.19
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 10.19.19
LOS ANGELES, CA 11.9.19

TO DONATE, REGISTER, VOLUNTEER, SPONSOR AND FOR EVENT DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT:

JOGGINFORFROGMEN.COM

SHOP THE OFFICIAL JOGGIN' FOR FROGMEN STORE TODAY! GEAR UP FOR YOUR NEXT RACE WITH JFF SHIRTS, HATS, ACCESSORIES AND MORE!

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PROUD TO PARTNER WITH GORUCK FOR THE 2019 RACE SEASON!

THANK YOU TO OUR RETURNING NATIONAL SPONSOR

Veterans United Foundation
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019

ZILLOW GROUP HEADQUARTERS
1301 Second Avenue, Floor 36, Seattle, WA

6:00 PM Cocktails | 7:00 PM Dinner & Program
9:00 PM After Party and Entertainment

with Keynote Speaker

Rear Admiral Scott P. Moore, USN, Ret.

Learn More at
www.NavySEALFoundation.org/Seattle

Business Casual
For questions, please contact Marlessa Buergler at MBuergler@navySEALfoundation.org
OUR COMMITMENT

THE NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION PROVIDES IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE (NSW) COMMUNITY AND ITS FAMILIES UNDER FIVE MAIN AREAS: WARRIOR & FAMILY SUPPORT, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE & SURVIVOR SUPPORT, WARRIOR TRANSITION, AND LEGACY PRESERVATION.

92 SURVIVING SPOUSES, FIANCEES AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS
108 SURVIVING CHILDREN
204 SURVIVING PARENTS
101 SURVIVING SIBLINGS
8 PRIMARY CAREGIVERS OF SURVIVING CHILDREN

TOTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT YTD: $11,483,399

$2,623,988 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
$1,940,141 TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE AND VETERAN SUPPORT
$2,036,367 CHILD RESILIENCY
$1,857,970 SURVIVOR SUPPORT
$1,623,405 TRANSITION ASSISTANCE
$1,249,081 WARRIOR AND FAMILY SUPPORT
$152,447 LEGACY PRESERVATION

TOP 0.7% OF ALL NONPROFITS FOR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
94 CENTS* OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED GOES DIRECTLY TO PROGRAMS OR IS RESERVED FOR FUTURE MISSION USE
4-STAR CHARITY NAVIGATOR RATING SINCE 2011

71 NSW KILLED IN ACTION SINCE SEPTEMBER 2001
22 NSW KILLED IN TRAINING SINCE SEPTEMBER 2001
46 NSW LINE OF DUTY SINCE SEPTEMBER 2001
6 NSW VETERAN-DIPLOMATIC MISSION
11 OTHER NSW LOSSES SINCE SEPTEMBER 2001

*Fundraising ratios and efficiencies are calculated using the Charity Navigator three-year average for these areas.
## UPCOMING EVENTS

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For a full listing of events visit navysealfoundation.org/events.

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