#### NSF NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2022



## WELCOME TO THE NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION SUMMER NEWSLETTER.

In this issue, we bring you some updates about our Gold Star Parents' Wellness Weekend, an update on our Scholarship Program, support for Community Events, and other news.

# **MISSION STATEMENT:** The Navy SEAL Foundation provides critical support for the warriors, veterans, and families of Naval Special Warfare.

### **MEMORIAL DAY 2022**

There are no words to adequately honor the fallen or show our sympathy and sorrow to those left behind. This year, the Foundation created a Memorial Day video expressing this sentiment across our platforms. We hoped to inspire Americans to consider how they can honor the sacrifices of our nation's fallen heroes every day through action. The video received national news coverage on Fox, which can be viewed here.



### **IN MEMORIAM**

Sadly, we also lost some NSW community members in the last few months. Thanks to supporters like you, NSF can care for them along with over 500 other Gold Star and Surviving Family members via programs under our Resilience Pillar.





Logistics Specialist 2nd Class March 7, 2022



JOHN DELTORO Electronics Technician 2nd Class June 3, 2022

Navy SEAL Foundation - EAST Coast 1619 D Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23459 P: 757.744.5326 Navy SEAL Foundation - WEST Coast 1033 B Avenue, Suite 201, Coronado, CA 92118 P: 619.762.5326

## NAVYSEALFOUNDATION.ORG

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## NSF GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING FAMILY PARENTS' WELLNESS WEEKEND

We hosted the 2022 Parents' Wellness Weekend in late April at Lake Oconee, GA. Nearly eighty surviving parents participated in individual and team-building activities to strengthen their bonds and provide for personal growth. It was a joy to see them back together for another regularly scheduled seasonal event after a lengthy hiatus due to COVID.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist Dr. Mia Bartoletti provided group training and scheduled one-on-one sessions for parents who requested private sessions. The attendees asked for and received a second group training on Sunday after an overwhelmingly positive response to the first one. The weekend ended with a closing dinner that included dancing, music, and laughter.



"I have enjoyed connecting with old friends every year and stretching myself to connect with people I may have never spoken to before. It always makes my time so rich and brings a new sense of community, the struggles we face are all different, and there is a beauty to openness and honesty that is shared in this group; so much can be gained by listening to others."

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On March 29, NSF sent scholarship notifications to 431 well-deserving applicants totaling over \$1.3M. NSW high school dependant applicants blew the independent review committee away, with eight students receiving perfect evaluation scores. NSF was honored to grant these exemplary applicants our highest level scholarship - \$7,500 annually for four years. It's not surprising to see NSW children accomplish extraordinary achievements, and the Foundation is honored to walk alongside them as they pursue their educational dreams.





The 2022 Cycle Two Scholarship application is available from June 1, 2022, until June 30, 2022, at midnight EST. **Please visit our Education Page for access and additional information.** 

"I wanted to give a heartfelt thank you to you, the Navy SEAL Foundation, and all those who contributed. Since medically retiring, I have been utilizing VA benefits to go to college and attend flight school as I work toward a new aviation career. The catch is that getting a job in aviation is all about how much flight time you have, and flight school only provides about 1/3 of the time needed before I can apply for a good job. The funds provided by NSF donors will cover a significant amount of flight time and training, which will get me closer to getting paid to fly bigger, faster airplanes. Again, thank you, thank you."

-NSF Veteran Applicant

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April was the month of the military child, and the Foundation was honored to recognize NSW children with a meaningful memento during Spring Fling events on both East and West coasts. Families were excited to receive their own signed copies of retired SEAL Admiral William H. McRaven's children's book *Make Your Bed with Skipper the Seal*. And the excitement did not stop there!

On the East Coast, families strengthened their community connections with a day at the zoo. NSW teen volunteers welcomed everyone and distributed books as people arrived. Zookeepers led wild "up-close-and-personal"



animal encounters with a terrapin, tenrec, and porcupine. After visiting with over 700 furry, feathered, and scaly animal friends, attendees concluded the day with a backyard BBQ and games.

On the West Coast, NSF welcomed 1,500 NSW family members for a day at SeaWorld. Everyone was able to enjoy all the park had to offer, including its brand new rollercoaster - The Emperor. And during the private catered lunch, the kids received a special guest appearance from a sloth and a penguin.

In Hawaii, our NSW community members had a fun day at Wet 'n' Wild, Oahu's #1 waterpark. The Foundation secured a private area of the park so families could relax, have lunch, and connect with their teammates while kids spent time exploring the park. And lastly, NSW members stationed in Europe held their first NSF Spring Fling in three years.

"We had a wonderful time at Wet'n'Wild. Thank you for your continued support of our family and so many others. It was wonderful seeing all the smiles all day. We truly appreciate being gifted this time to spend as a family-it's rare and so very appreciated!"

-NSW Active Duty Family





# LOS ANGELES EVENING OF TRIBUTE 2022



The Navy SEAL Foundation hosted the 2022 Los Angeles Evening of Tribute on Thursday, June 9, at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. The event raised over \$3.2 million!

Host actor-producer Matt McCoy warmly welcomed the 700-person audience, including executives, supporters, patriots, and heroes. Legendary sportscaster and former NFL player Jim Hill presented the "Navy SEAL Foundation Patriot Award" to E. Stanley Kroenke, owner of the LA Rams.



Upon accepting this award, Kroenke's shared, *"to the Navy SEALS, we are grateful for your incredible bravery and selflessness, and we appreciate your tremendous sacrifice for the benefit of our country and beyond. I am humbled by this special recognition. We salute the Navy SEAL Foundation for the important work you do to support these men and women and their families. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for this tremendous honor."* 

The evening's keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Gates. After describing a moving chronology, he said, "While the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are largely behind us, the terrorists – like ISIS and Al-Qaeda – are still out there and still need to be hunted down. Even as that mission continues, new missions associated with great power adversaries have emerged. And the SEALs have taken on that challenge in clever, creative, and adaptable ways. We must never forget what they – what you – did and what you sacrificed. I thank the Navy SEAL Foundation for its extraordinary work to that end," he added.

The Evening of Tribute was generously supported by Trident Sponsors Kennedy Wilson, Los Angeles Rams, Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc., Eisner LLP, and Mark Keisel, Chief Investment Officer and Managing Director, PIMCO.

# **BOSTON FROGMAN SWIM**

The 4th annual Boston Frogman Swim took place on Sunday, June 12 at Boston's Piers Park Sailing Center. Over 70 swimmers including former SEALs, Gold Star family members, and supporters braved a 5K course in 59-degree Boston Harbor to honor the fallen, while 60 safety kayakers including Patriots' tight end Dalton Keene, paddled alongside them. Following the swim, Retired SEAL Captain John Burnham, who spent 24 years in the SEAL teams, spoke with those in attendance. The event raised over \$180K and was covered by local area news to include **Boston's Channel 7 WHGH.** 



Photos by: Jordan Samuel Photography

### **CLICK HERE FOR A FULL LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS.**

# PARTNERS

### **BORN PRIMITIVE**

May was Military Appreciation Month, and Born Primitive ran a special promotion donating 100% of their profits from their popular Multicam Collection to NSF! They raised \$85K in support of the Foundation's programs! To learn more about Born Primitive, visit www.bornprimitive.com.

### FITVINE

FitVine is running a special promotion from July 2-4 (midnight EST) on its Red Zin varietal. Simply use code JULY4 on <u>their site</u> to get 15% off and \$8 per bottle will be donated to NSF!

### **HUNTER YEANY**

American Formula race car driver Hunter Yeany just announced the release of his limited edition "Ambition is Forever" T-shirt in support of the Navy SEAL Foundation. As the son of a former Navy SEAL, 17-year-old Yeany has been immersed in the military community his whole life, and that influence has played an integral part in getting him to where he is today. "Ambition is Forever" is Hunter's ethos to encourage "provoking the intrepid

spirit inside everyday people that propels ambition into fruition," a mantra he believes applies to all people no matter their goals. 50% of the proceeds on every "Ambition is Forever" t-shirt will be donated to the Navy SEAL Foundation. Apparel is available on **Hunter's website.** 



Photo Credit: Dutch Photo Agency

"The Navy SEAL community has done so much for me on my journey in sports. It means a lot to me to be able to bring together the Formula Racing community to support this community and give back in a way that is unique to me. I hope people will be inspired to get the shirt and learn more about the Navy SEAL Foundation and Formula Racing!"

—Hunter Yeany

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