

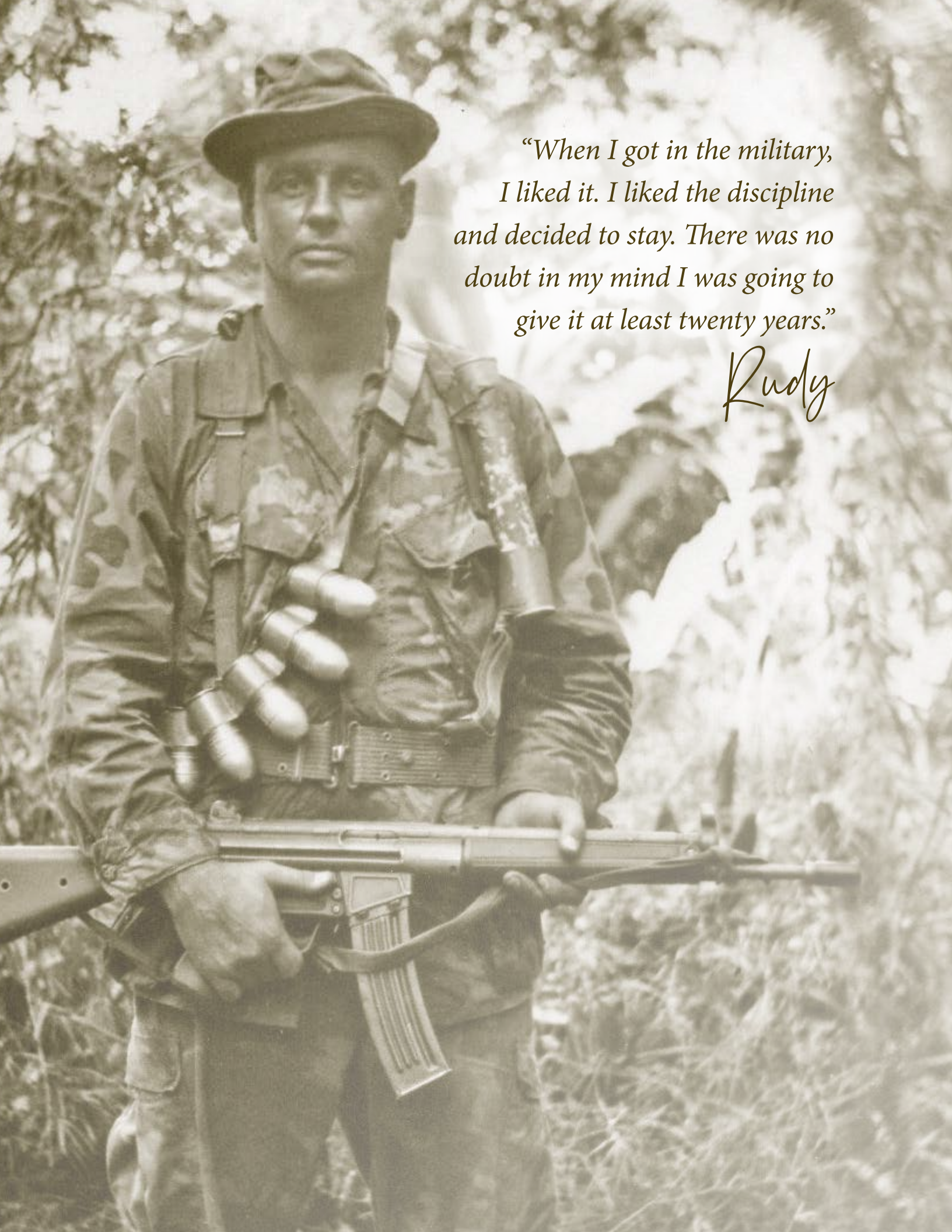
THE BLAST

Winter 2019 | Volume 51 | Number 4



*A living legend-
passes...*

UDT-SEAL ASSOCIATION

A black and white photograph of a soldier in camouflage gear, holding a rifle, with a quote overlaid on the right side. The soldier is wearing a wide-brimmed hat and has a serious expression. The background is a blurred natural setting.

*"When I got in the military,
I liked it. I liked the discipline
and decided to stay. There was no
doubt in my mind I was going to
give it at least twenty years."*

Rudy

Rudolph Ernest Boesch

20 January 1928-1 November 2019

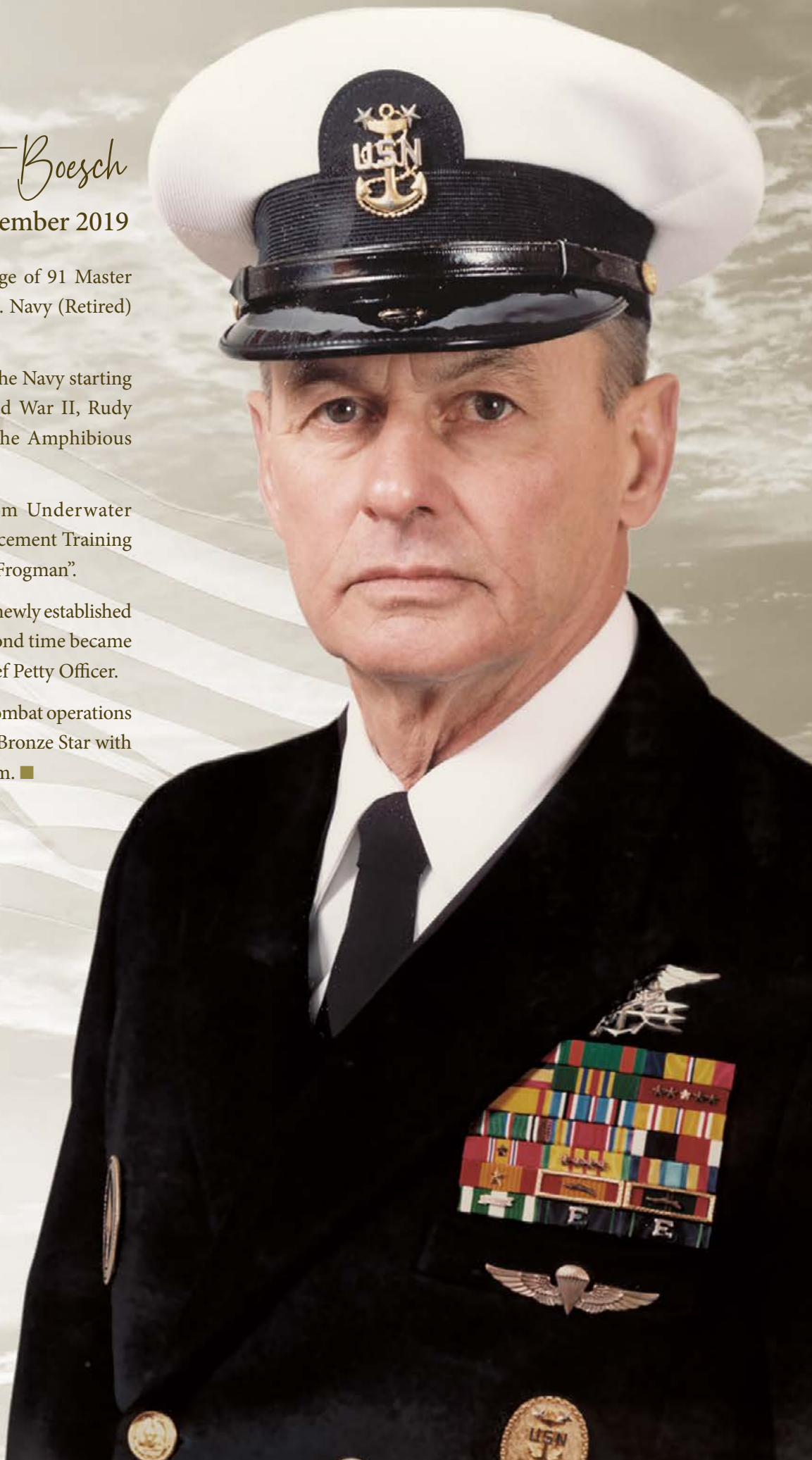
On 1 November 2019 at the age of 91 Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL), U.S. Navy (Retired) passed away.

At the age of 17, he enlisted in the Navy starting a 45 year career. During World War II, Rudy immediately volunteered for the Amphibious Scouts and Raiders.

In 1951, Rudy graduated from Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) Replacement Training (Class 6) becoming an official "Frogman".

In 1962, Rudy transferred to the newly established SEAL Team TWO and for a second time became a Plankowner and the only Chief Petty Officer.

Rudy was integral to forty-five combat operations in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star with Combat V for his acts of heroism. ■





UDT/SEAL ASSOCIATION

EVENTS



5-6 FEBRUARY
VETERAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
CORONADO, CA



6 MARCH
FREEDOM EXPO
PHOENIX, AZ



13-14 MARCH
NIGHT OF JAZZ
NEW ORLEANS, LA



21 MARCH
TUCSON DESERT GOLF CLASSIC
TUCSON, AZ

HONOR. SERVICE. HERITAGE.



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The BLAST is printed quarterly by the UDT-SEAL Association and distributed internationally. The UDT-SEAL Association is a 501(c)(19) Veterans Service Organization, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and guided by a Constitution and By-Laws adopted by its members. BLAST Disclaimer: Opinions expressed throughout this distinctive publication for members of the Naval Special Warfare community are not the opinions of the BLAST. Unless stated we neither endorse nor guarantee items displayed in paid advertisements. HooYah.

THE BLAST

4TH QUARTER 2019

VOL. 51, NO. 4



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Dave Morrison Executive Director's Update



AS OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR draws to a close, I want to express my gratitude to all of our members. Through the years, your steadfast support allowed us to develop and expand our Membership Life Assistance, Scholarship and Heritage programs.

This year's launch of the SEAL Veterans Foundation is an especially significant milestone. Already our board members are working hard to expand our fundraising efforts. For 2020, two galas are currently being planned. We will keep you posted as the details for these events are finalized. Please, if you have an idea for an event or can recommend a potential donor, contact me. "Friend raising," building a support network of friends, will allow us to raise the funds that make a difference in the lives of our special warfare veterans and their families.

This issue's stories clearly demonstrate how we are now making a difference in the lives of young people who wish to pursue a college education; in our veterans both young and old who need help receiving their benefits; and in keeping our history alive for the next generation of special warfare warriors.

In the coming year, beginning in January, the 2020 scholarship applications will be posted on our website. If you have a dependent in high school, college, or graduate school, please take advantage of this opportunity.

Next year, *The Blast* will introduce a new section that will allow members to post significant personal and professional milestones. If you started a new job, received an award, elected to be on a not-for-profit board or started a new business, we would like to share your success. A Constant Contact will be published shortly with the details.

There are also Association Chapters that need officers. This is a great opportunity to help your brotherhood stay connected. If you are interested in becoming involved in local chapters please contact Steve "Gonzo" Gonzalez. (sgonzalez@utdseal.org)

May this Holiday season be all that you hope it will be for you and your family. Please stay safe. For some this is a difficult time of the year. If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out to us. Together we can be strong and secure.

■ Long Live the Brotherhood. ■

"Next year, 'The Blast' will introduce a new section that will allow members to post significant personal and professional milestones."

Dave Morrison



SPOTLIGHT



JANICE

LAST YEAR after filling in for a staff member on maternity leave, Janice Sadler asked Dave Morrison what else she could do for the Association. Dave mentioned they needed help soliciting donations for the reunion raffle items. That was all Janice needed.

Several months later after organizing an army of volunteers, mailing countless letters and making daily phone calls over 100 items were beautifully packaged and raffled off at the East Coast Reunion. This was an all-time record and raised approximately \$8000.

In addition, Janice revitalized the Association's Chapter communication effort and instituted a bi-monthly chapter president conference call. If this was not enough, she initiated the SEAL Veterans Foundation Ambassador program to identify sponsors and generate ongoing donations.

"Right now, I am just trying to solicit more donations so we can make more money for scholarships and our veterans," said Janice. "I just get a lot of satisfaction out of helping people."

Before retiring, Janice was the Comptroller for Naval Special Warfare Group Two for 14 years. She retired from government service after 34 years.

She is a Virginia Beach native where she still lives with her four East Coast Canine Alliance recues, Lucy Lou, Beau-Difus, Ellie Mae, and Lexi Sue. ■

Janice also volunteers with the VA Beach SPCA and the Union Mission.



John T. "Ted" Mosure | Franklin County | United States Navy Veteran

TED'S DISTINCTIVE LEADERSHIP and involvement with veteran, community, school, and government agencies is truly noteworthy. He has been an active member of Catholic War Veterans (CWV) Post 1936 for more than 15 years, acting as an officer for most of that span. He represents CWV on Columbus' Military Advisory Council and the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee. He chairs the CWV's efforts with local parades, ensuring veterans have access to participate.

Since 2006, Ted has worked with the American Legion to decorate graves with American flags on Memorial Day Weekend, joining local Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and American Heritage Girls to post more than 1,000 flags annually. Ted is a founding board member of the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor and current President of the Board of Directors, responsible for fundraising, ceremony event planning, and public relations.

He is a member of the Underwater Demolition Teams/SEAL Association and the Navy Seal Museum, and holds life memberships in Special Forces Association Chapter 45 and AMVETS Post 89. He serves as a fundraiser, veteran advisor, and musician for St. Matthias Church. Ted served as event planner and volunteer coach for his kids' soccer and wrestling teams, and as president of the DeSales High School Athletic Association.

His service to the Vietnam Veterans of America Columbus Chapter 16 included stints as president, speaker at events, and media contributor. During his career in the grocery industry, he served as president of the Columbus Manufacturers Representative Association. Ted enters the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame at age 70. ■

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

GULF OF ADEN | Lt. Todd DeLaney, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit command chaplain, prays with Sailors and Marines during a Christmas Eve worship service on the flight deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Somerset (LPD 25). Somerset is deployed with the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group to support maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Amanda Chavez)

THINGS TO REMEMBER when the Holiday Season brings more sadness than gladness.

It's a fact. Depression is something almost everyone gets and no one wants. Depression has a broad scope; from occasional periods of feeling "blue" to a debilitating long term condition needing medical treatment.

Sometimes there's an identifiable trigger when we become depressed. Yet at times it intrudes on us for no apparent reason.

But the people who study this problem (people a lot smarter than me) say the the year-end holidays can bring on a very real type of depression associated with them. Experts call it Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Similar to the shadow cast in contrast to bright light, sorrow and isolation can feel more pronounced beside the celebration and sense of belonging that the holiday season represents.

Last week at my men's Bible Study one of the group asked to be remembered in prayer because the holidays were coming and for him that meant an ongoing struggle with sadness.



So, if you are already starting to dread the advent of the season, here are a few things to remember:

- Take care of yourself
- Do your best to stay as healthy as you can. Eat right. Keep moving. Exercise. Get the sleep you need. Keep your brain active. Think about a few things you want to do after the holidays.
- Do something good for others
- Short term community programs and projects abound during the holidays. Volunteer. Join up. Help out.
- Don't hide
- Don't feel like you have to wear a happy face. But try to be as honest, open and engaged as you can.
- If you have a faith, let it help you.
- Some churches and faith groups hold services specifically for people struggling with grief or loss. Look up worship schedules to see if there's one nearby. Also, your faith can help you see beyond the busyness and stress to reach the deeper meaning of the season.

The holiday season brings together a strange chemistry of joy, sorrow, excitement, tension, relaxation, anxiety, well-being, painful pasts and hopeful futures.

It can be an overwhelming time of year. But it doesn't have to be. We may not transform the season completely, but with these few reminders in play, we can navigate the holiday blues more successfully than we thought possible.

Blessings,

"Chaps" Chaplain Mike Shockley

Mike Shockley is currently the Chaplain for the National UDT SEAL Museum in Ft. Pierce Florida. He served as a US Navy Chaplain (Active and Reserve) for 27 years. In 1991 he deployed with First Marine Expeditionary Force during the Gulf War. From 2009 -2011 he served as Deputy Command Chaplain for Naval Special Warfare Development Group, and completed four deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

SEAL LEGACY FOUNDATION HOLIDAY GIFT CARD PROGRAM

*"Thanks so much to SLF
for this. It is a really nice help
during the expensive holidays,
especially with my big family."*

Spouse of a SEAL lost in Operation Red Wings

THE HOLIDAYS can be a stressful time for many people. Financial challenges, overscheduled activities and difficult family dynamics are just some of the reasons people may feel less than jolly. But for those who are grieving, holiday traditions and activities can make the absence of a lost loved one even more difficult.

In 2016, the SEAL Legacy Foundation began its Holiday Grocery Gift Card program as a way to provide additional support to spouses and children of fallen SEALs, and to let them know they are remembered. The program provides \$250 gift cards to a grocery store of choice to the families.

"True to our motto, we want these heroes' families to know we will not leave them behind or forget them, no matter how long it has been since their loss," said SLF Founder and Managing Director Mark McGinnis.

"I can't even begin to thank the SEAL Legacy Foundation for your generous gift," said a spouse whose husband was killed in action in Afghanistan. "Especially at this time of year when the priorities shift from food and bills to the kids and their never-ending wish lists. Thank you for never forgetting his sacrifice."

Additionally, the gift cards provide extra financial support at a time of year when families usually have more guests and the extra costs can be burdensome.

"Thanks so much to SLF for this. It is a really nice help during the expensive holidays, especially with my big family," said a surviving spouse of a SEAL lost in Operation Red Wings.

Because of its generous donors, the Foundation has also been able to provide presents and gift cards for SEALs and their families who may be struggling financially for a variety of reasons.

"We typically have several donors each year who, although they've already supported the Foundation's efforts throughout the year, provide additional financial support specifically earmarked for holiday gifts," McGinnis noted.

These funds are used for children's toys and games, and gift cards to movie theaters, trampoline parks or other fun activities. They are sent to active duty, retired, separated and reservist families who have been identified through different channels as needing extra support during the holiday season.

One recipient who had been recently medically retired with significant injuries, wrote that the gifts were prayers answered from above for him, his wife and three sons.

"Thank you for the toys...the smiles on Christmas day is something I shall never forget. Thank you for the movie (tickets), as my wife and I don't get out much alone. But getting away together can help restore balance and connection. Thank you for the *Dave & Buster's* card, because even for a tough guy like me it's great to be a kid again. Merry Christmas!" ■

To learn more about SEAL Legacy Foundation and its programs, visit:
www.SEALLegacy.org.



Rudolph Ernest "Rudy" Boesch

20 January 1928-1 November 2019

By Bob Rieve

"Just about anything a SEAL does is dangerous. The way I look at it, someone has to do the job, and I enjoyed doing it."

RUDY was born in Rochester, New York, and enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17. Starting a 45 year career during World War II, Rudy immediately volunteered for the Amphibious Scouts and Raiders created to reconnoiter prospective landing beaches and lead assault forces to the designated beaches under cover of darkness. Finding his niche in this line of work, in 1951 Rudy graduated from Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) Replacement Training (Class 6) becoming an official "Frogman". Four years after becoming a "Frogman" Rudy married Marjorie E. Thomas, his Rochester sweetheart of 53 years.

Rudy served as a Frogman for 11 years. First as a Plankowner in UDT-2 and later in the re-established UDT-21 making innumerable deployments in both commands. In between deployments Rudy and Marge started a family having three devoted daughters. In 1962 Rudy transferred to the newly established SEAL Team TWO and for a second time became a Plankowner and the only Chief Petty Officer in the command. Much is written about the SEALs and especially SEAL Team TWO. It suffices to say, Rudy was integral to forty-five combat operations in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star with Combat V for his acts of heroism.

He was forever in charge of the SEAL physical fitness program and was diligent about ensuring that all SEALs participated in daily PT or face the consequences! While serving at SEAL Team TWO Rudy became the "Bullfrog" in 1981. This is a little known honor bestowed on the active duty SEAL with the most time in the Navy. Rudy remained the "Bullfrog" until 1990. Also while on active duty he was a crewman on the US Navy Olympic Bobsled Team.

Rudy served in SEAL Team TWO for 26 years. In 1988 Rudy was selected to serve as Senior Enlisted Advisor for all special operations forces. He served in this leadership position at United States Special Operations Command until his retirement in 1990 ending his forty-five years as an active duty Navy SEAL. He was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal.

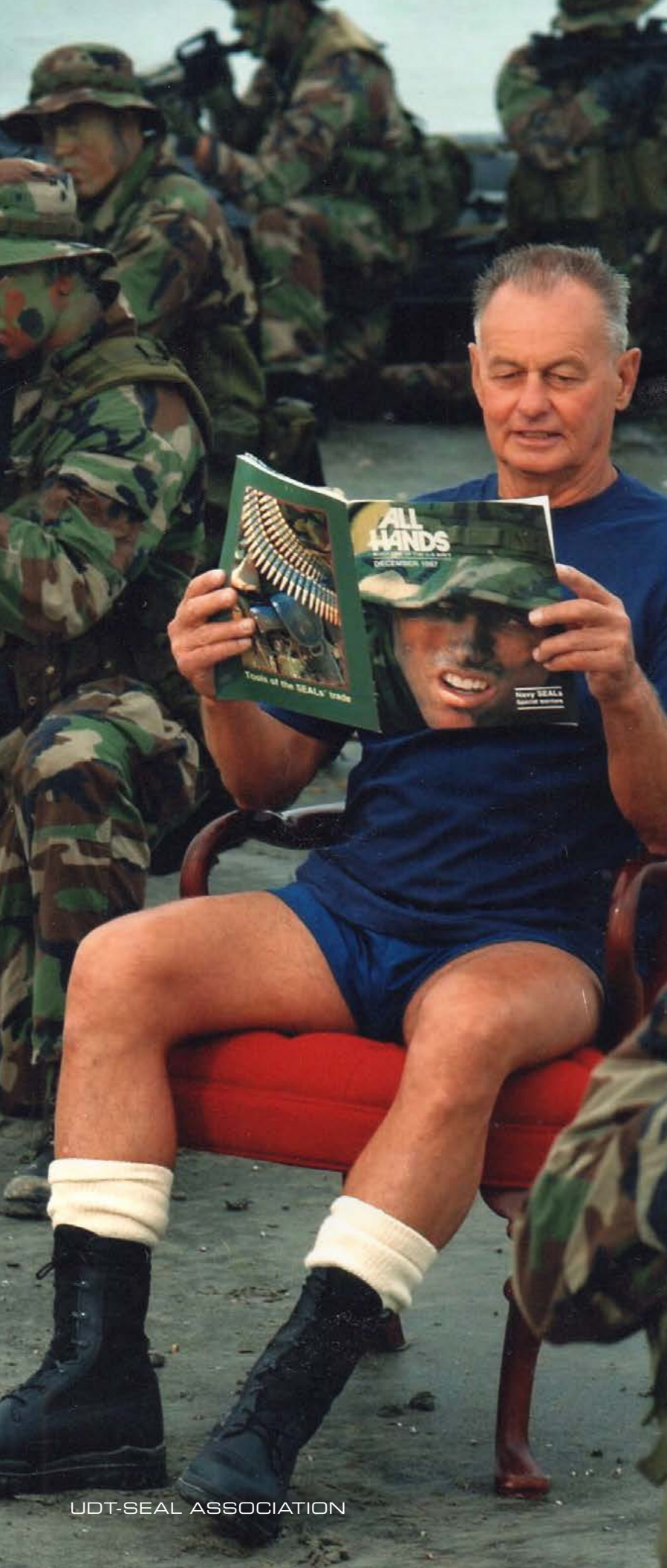
Retirement was not on Rudy's list of "things-to-do-when-you-retire."



Rudy and Marge. She was always the Master Chief in Rudy's life.



Rudy with Ellen, Patty and Barbara on Easter Sunday



Rudy continued to serve on the Board of the UDT-SEAL Association and joined the Board of the Special Operations Fund. He was a Virginia Beach Police Department Volunteer specializing in ticketing those who illegally parked in spaces reserved for the disabled. Rudy drove vehicles for the American Red Cross delivering supplies to disaster areas and remained on scene to provide needed assistance.

Rudy continued to be extremely physically fit and competed in the Virginia Senior Olympics. Although he could never beat Marge in racquetball, he did win the state championship in his age bracket. During the 1996 Georgia Summer Olympics, Rudy captained a support boat as he did during the 1992 America's Cup. Marge accompanied Rudy on all his adventures. Marge was always the Master Chief in Rudy's life until she predeceased him in 2008.

Rudy's most public and publicized adventure was his appearance on the first showing of the popular reality show—"Survivor." At 72 he was the oldest competitor. Straight forward and honest with no concern for political correctness, he became the audience's favorite. Finishing third in the competition, he returned to Virginia Beach explaining he just fell asleep for a second when his hand slipped off the pole. He returned several times to the "Survivor" set because of his popularity, ethics, and direct manner. He also participated in "Survivor All-Stars." Although not a winner in "Survivor All-Stars", *People Magazine* recognized Rudy as the "Sexiest Survivor" in 2000, and he appeared in the television series "JAG" and hosted a showing of "Combat Missions." Although not making the best seller's list, Rudy authored a book entitled, *The Book of Rudy—The Wit and Wisdom of Rudy Boesch*. In this paperback, Rudy answered questions like "Did you get a rush out of risking your life?" Rudy's answer: "No, just about anything a SEAL does is dangerous. The way I look at it, someone has to do the job, and I enjoyed doing it."

Rudy enjoyed doing everything throughout his life. Let's remember this great patriot in this way. RIP Rudy.

A special thank you to all of the staff at *The Memory Center* and Diana, Rudy's hospice nurse.

Rudy is survived by his three daughters and one granddaughter, Ellen Boesch, Patty Boesch Messerian (Martin), Barbara Boesch Schlaßter (Terry) and one granddaughter, Kelsey Messerian ■

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND NO ONE FORGOTTEN

The SEAL Legacy Foundation has proudly supported U.S. Navy SEALs and their families since 2011. Founded and run by SEALs, our mission is to support the brotherhood, past, present and future.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Home Base Partnership for TBI Treatment
- Honored SEAL Legacy Scholarship program for dependents
- Gold Star & Surviving Family Support
- Grants Program to Offset Financial Difficulties that Arise from Service
- Tutoring and Educational Enrichment through SEAL Kids Partnership
- Veterans Support and Transition through UDT-SEAL Association Partnership

Visit us at www.SEALlegacy.org to learn more.



The SEAL Legacy Foundation has been recognized with the prestigious GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest level of recognition.



SEAL Legacy Foundation

2525 Wallingwood Dr.
Building 1, Suite 214
Austin, TX 78746

15th Annual Navy SEAL Museum Muster



DESPITE CHALLENGING WEATHER CONDITIONS over 10,000 people attended this year's Navy SEAL Museum Muster commemorating D-Day's 75th Anniversary.

This year's guest speakers included Medal of Honor Master Chief Britt Slabinski and Rear Adm. Kerry Metz. Building on this year's D-Day theme, both men talked about the history of Frogmen and spoke on the meaning of patriotism.

Other events included the Admiral's Cove Golf Tournament, a Normandy re-enactment and SEAL tactical and canine demonstrations. In addition, a record number of runners participated in the 15th Annual Muster 5K.

Through a partnership with Baden K-9, the Museum was able to donate another canine to a former Naval Special Warfare operator.

As a community outreach, the Navy SEAL Museum Muster excels in allowing the general public not only a glimpse into Naval Special Warfare at the Museum, but also the unique opportunity to come up close and personal with the warriors of the community. ■

The Honor Foundation A Community Post Community



As part of the curriculum offered, THF's Programs Team and People Team work together to coordinate an evening of Mock Interviews with local HR Professionals who generously share their time and expertise to help prepare transitioning Fellows with the interview process.



Fellows of The Honor Foundation are introduced to a new Tribe of Support—Coaches, Mentors, Faculty, Employer Partners, THF Alumni and staff—to help discover their next purpose and translate their skills from their military experience to the private sector.

"I could not have anticipated what was to come when I committed myself to The Honor Foundation (THF), but I can assure you it was one of the most helpful and insightful things I have done in my professional development post military. I continue to stay abreast of THF's vision of the future. I am excited and pleased by the focus of new CEO Mr. Matt Stevens and his mission to connect cohorts of the past and present in an attempt to open the umbrella for us all."

U.S. Navy Seal, THF Alumnus

FIVE YEARS AGO, when The Honor Foundation (THF) officially became a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Special Operations Forces (SOF) community was introduced to a resource that is now recognized as a critical element in their transition from active military service to the private sector.

When this group of talented, elite individuals (SEALS, SWCC, EOD, Green Berets, Rangers, PJs, CCT, Special Ops Aviators, and Combat Enablers)—the best in the world at what they do—is confronted with what life after serving a 6, 10, 20 or 30-year career looks like for them and their families, they are able to turn to THF for guidance.

The Mission of The Honor Foundation (THF) is "To serve others with honor for life, so their next mission is clear and continues to impact the world."

"I went through a rough transition, but THF provided me with the tools, mentorship, and guidance to succeed beyond my wildest dreams. Hands down one of the best decisions I could have made for the future of my family and for myself."

US SWCC, THF Alumnus

The Honor Foundation delivers a transition experience like no other—an experience of "high touch, high value" that is ingrained in the program, the atmosphere, the network and all aspects of support. Established in 2014 with the Navy SEAL Foundation as the Founding Partner, it was created exclusively for the U.S. Special Operations community to fill the gaps not covered by the service mandated programs like TAPS or TGPS. THF provides a clear process for professional development and a diverse ecosystem of world class support and technology. Every step is dedicated to preparing the men and women of the SOF community to realize their maximum potential during and after their military service.

With three physical locations in San Diego, CA; Virginia Beach, VA; and Camp Lejeune, NC; and a virtual campus (THFv), THF is committed to providing an executive MBA-like experience by running two cohorts per year—one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Cohorts, known as Groups, attend classes in the evenings twice per week for three months; and are immersed in a program heavily focused on career and leadership assessments, self-discovery, professional development and executive education. A diverse community of thought leaders and faculty lead each curriculum course. Executive coaches give one-on-one guidance throughout the process while mentors provide accessibility to industries of interest, so transitioning members of the SOF community are fully

supported in their personal and professional transformation. These members of the THF Tribe are standing by to support transitioning members of the SOF community... for life.

What is often misunderstood by potential hiring managers and business executives is a true understanding of what members of the SOF community offer. At The Honor Foundation, the mission is not only to serve the men and women of the SOF community, but to also educate and build lasting relationships with businesses, community leaders and influential individuals—constantly seeking those who can best support, mentor and/or hire from our alumni network. Our aim is to help businesses understand the potential of this elite talent pool as future leaders of industry and an asset to their internal culture and team.

Over 95% of THF graduates have landed roles, started businesses, or were accepted into higher education for advanced degrees—what we at THF define as fulfillment.

THF graduates have landed in roles in clean energy, business development, directors in Human Resources, and as key innovators inside emerging small to medium sized companies. Hiring managers and CEOs have been thrilled with the ROI and results.

As a non-profit transition institute, The Honor Foundation's efforts are laser focused on supporting the transitions made by their Fellows. Fortunately, THF's staff does not carry out this effort single handedly. Hundreds of talented individuals have partnered with THF to support our mission. We call them our Tribes of Support.

The Coaches Tribe is comprised of Executive Coaches and active business leaders. These experienced individuals donate their time and talent to support of each Fellow's success during the program experience. With over 150 Coaches throughout the country, all Fellows receive an outside business perspective, are asked tough questions, and gain a sense of clarity during the program.

The world class Faculty Tribe come from all areas of business and academia. They bring transition curriculum to life and push the Fellows to understand themselves in a new light. The Mentor Tribe are highly successful at what they do and afford the Fellows shadowing opportunity, guidance, and advice. The Tribe of THF Ambassadors are individuals who are senior decision makers inside their organizations and advocates of the THF mission. Those who have the motivation, drive, and overall influence to put plans, actions, or introductions into effect to support The Honor Foundation. Then there is the Alumni Tribe—Fellows who graduated from the program, established their own networks, and are committed to “paying it forward” to support those who will follow in transition.

“KATERRA sees value in its team members and finding the right people that will embrace the culture and ethics of a company that will be disrupting a major market. Working with The Honor Foundation enabled the right candidate to join the team to add value to the mission and success of the company.”

Danielle Cornell, HR Director, Talent and Recruitment

These incredible people are the mission makers, door openers, and life changers for The Honor Foundation Fellows—all extraordinary individuals, whose personal values and professional mission align with those of The Honor Foundation and the special community it serves. These are some of most valued relationships inside THF's Network.

With the support of the Navy SEAL Foundation, the Marine Raider Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project and many other organizations, The Honor Foundation is dedicated to serving those leaving active duty—their new community after service. ■

To learn more about The Honor Foundation and how you can support its mission, please visit www.honor.org.



The content offered in the Program is only as valuable as the Faculty who teach it. THF is honored to have world-class instructors who bring the curriculum to life at each of the four campuses.



A PARTNERSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN.



NAVY SEALS CONDUCT AN IMPRESSIVE CAPABILITIES EXERCISE HERE'S HOW IT WENT DOWN

By Marty Skovlund Jr. | July 24, 2019

Photos by Marty Skovlund, Jr. | coffeordie.com



THE TEMPERATURE SOARED into triple digits, and the few clouds overhead offered almost no relief from the blistering sun that was punishing civilians and sailors alike on the beaches of Little Creek, Virginia. The heat was brutal, but that wasn't going to stop some of our nation's most elite maritime warriors from putting on one helluva show.

Every year, The UDT-SEAL Association works with Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Group 2 based out of the Norfolk, Virginia, area to put on a capabilities exercise (CAPEX) for veterans and their families during an annual East Coast reunion. It's a daring display of helicopters, boats, and U.S. Navy SEALs doing what they are uniquely qualified to do: storm a beach and take down enemy boats—in style.

The event is closed to the general public, but Coffee or Die was granted exclusive access to cover the event under the agreement that we wouldn't reveal any names, faces, or sensitive tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs).

The exercise started with an aircraft circling high above. A few small dots appeared, hurtling toward the earth below. They were Navy SEALs conducting a military free fall (MFF) jump with an American flag in tow. Before long, they deployed their parachutes and began executing an impressive display of aerial maneuvers, some of which had the jumpers under canopy practically on top of each other while streaking through the sun-bleached sky.

They eventually landed with perfect precision, waving to the small crowd that was cheering and clapping them on. Two of the jumpers climbed onto a small stage and affixed to a pole the American flag they carried, raising Old Glory high for all to see. The red and white stripes and the stars on a field of blue whipped in the breeze coming off the Atlantic Ocean.

The crowd removed hats and placed hand over heart as the National Anthem echoed over the blonde sand. Everyone present had a deep appreciation for the flag. They had either served in the military—many of them combat veterans—or were family members who knew exactly what it meant to say goodbye to a loved one leaving on yet another combat deployment. The “rockets red glare” and “bombs bursting in air” aren't just words to a song; they are vivid memories for some, and nightmares for others. *(continued)*



Navy SEALs from Naval Special Warfare Group 2 prepare for exfil during a capabilities exercise.

After the conclusion of the anthem, two Navy SEALs in khaki UDT shorts presented a display of flowers to the crowd in remembrance of Jerry “Buck” Pope, who was killed in a traffic accident on October 16, 2002 in Yemen. They walked it down to the ocean’s edge, waded in, and placed the arrangement in the water.

Not long after the ceremony, the action of the CAPEX picked up. A SEAL sniper took out two targets (mannequins dressed as enemy fighters whose “heads” exploded), clearing the way for his fellow SEALs to come ashore. Much to the audience’s surprise, he emerged from the sand right in front of them, showing just how effective a sniper’s camouflage can be.

What came next was a raw display of American military might. Navy SEALs dropped into the ocean from a hovering helicopter and swam ashore, right before another helicopter swooped in and SEALs fast-roped to the beach below. One of the SEALs even used a special descender that allowed him to carry his military working dog with him. Boats from the Navy’s elite Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman (SWCC) provided support by fire.

The SEALs assaulted a mock objective that included a few small shacks and took down a couple of role players posing as the enemy. One role player made it out of the hail of gunfire only to be quickly and viciously taken down by the dog. No one had any doubts about the effectiveness of a Navy SEAL-trained dog on the battlefield.

The SEALs called for exfil. As with all special operations units, there is more than one way to get off the objective. In this case, ground vehicles sped in, picked them up, and left under the cover of smoke. A series of explosions rippled across the beach, simulating the objective being blown in place.

Some spectators began to leave, assuming that was the conclusion. Not so. In the distance, a boat full of pirates gunned its engines through the waters directly in front of the crowd. The faux pirates confronted what many real-life pirates have experienced off the Horn of Africa and other key waterways. Multiple helicopters swooped down from the sky again, guns a-blazing, and the SWCC boats circled menacingly with all of their machine guns “talking” in one violent maritime concert.

Then, in a display of capabilities that are particularly relevant as of late, a boat full of SEALs sped toward the pirated craft and conducted a Visit-Board-Search-Seizure, or VBSS as it’s commonly called. Of course, the mission was successful.

The annual CAPEX went off without a hitch. The bleachers emptied and the small crowd of SEALs, family members, and veterans retreated to the cover and shade of tents to view static displays of equipment and weapons commonly used by “Team Guys.” It was good to see men of action showing their sons and daughters what Dad did at work, and others walking hand-in-hand with their wives and girlfriends.



Navy SEALs from Naval Special Warfare Group 2 fast rope onto the objective during a capabilities exercise.

So much of a SEALs work must be kept quiet, so an opportunity to give their family a glimpse into their world while “at work” is precious indeed.

Some of these special operators are just returning from deployments around the world. Others are getting ready to leave their loved ones yet again for another trip executing U.S. foreign policy abroad. It’s the life of a SEAL, and it’s the life these hardy men chose. After all, the only easy day...was yesterday. ■



A convoy of Navy SEALs from Naval Special Warfare Group 2 prepare to exfil from the objective breach and clear an enemy structure during a capabilities exercise.





NAVY SEAL WILL START AT YALE THIS FALL AS A 52-YEAR OLD UNDERGRAD

By Brita Belli

Photo Michael Lionstar | Yale.edu

JAMES "JIMMY" HATCH was part of Special Operations unit sent into Afghanistan's Kunar Province in July 2005 to bring back the bodies of 16 fallen colleagues, who had been killed by a rocket-propelled grenade. After the gruesome mission, Hatch says, he read a copy of Harold Bloom's book "Genius," soaking in the Yale professor's thoughts and analysis around Shakespeare, Dante, Hemingway, and Faulkner. It helped to keep him sane, he says.

"I sent Bloom an email," Hatch says. "I told him 'I am going through a tough time and your book is like a balm. It gives me a safe place to relax and learn.'" Bloom, he recalls, emailed back a one-word reply: "Survive."

He did. And this fall, 14 years later at age 52, Hatch will be starting at Yale as an undergraduate through the university's *Eli Whitney Students Program*, which is designed for non-traditional students with high potential who have had their education interrupted. Fewer than 10% of applicants are admitted, comparable to general Yale College admission rates.

Hatch's journey has been a difficult one, he acknowledges—involving combat, injury, depression, substance abuse, and a suicide attempt. But through it all, he says, there was a lust for learning. During his frequent trips by helicopter into combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan, Hatch read philosophers like Neruda and Epictetus by *ChemLight*.

"Jimmy is wildly curious and hugely intellectually engaged. I had him up to speak in my class and, after about five minutes, it was clear he would thrive at Yale," says Zack Cooper, associate professor of public health and economics, who counts Hatch among his closest friends and provided him a letter of recommendation. "There's no doubt he'll benefit from the program, but so too will our students. Anytime our students can connect with someone who is the best in the world at what they do, they can learn so much."

Hatch is currently looking for an off-campus apartment in New Haven with his wife, Kelley, and Mina, his black Dutch shepherd service dog. He says that despite his time in war zones, the idea of starting at Yale as an undergraduate "scares the hell out of me."

FINDING LOVE AND DOGS, IN THE MILITARY

Hatch was drawn to the military from an early age. He imagined it as a refuge from a tumultuous childhood. He was put up for adoption at 18 months, ran away from his adopted family, and reunited with his adopted father during his teenage years when he was prone to acting out. Navy SEALs, says Hatch, "have proven their desire to be part of that family. It's hard to watch someone cover you in a gunfight and not think of that as love."

In the military, Hatch distinguished himself as an expert parachutist and aerial photographer. He was also one of the first SEALs to become a dog handler after 9-11 when the military reinstituted service dogs into training and combat. "Dogs are a force multiplier," Hatch says. "They can do the work of six or seven men the way they see, hear, and smell. They do so much work that saves lives."



Two dogs had such an impact on his life that their names feature prominently in his sleeve tattoos. Spike, a Belgian Malinois with an agile body and long ears, was killed during a raid in Iraq in 2005, hit by a pass-through bullet from Hatch's own gun. Devastated, Hatch wrote the words to the Neruda poem "It Means Shadows" on the dog's kennel wall. Remco was killed in 2009 during a mission to rescue Bowe Bergdahl, who walked away from his post in Afghanistan and was held by the Taliban for five years. Hatch was shot in the thigh during the firefight, sustaining massive injuries that would lead to 18 surgeries. The injuries ended his military career and led to a fraught readjustment to civilian life, where he struggled to find his purpose and suffered from depression, afraid to ask for help.

Jimmy is wildly curious and hugely intellectually engaged...There's no doubt he'll benefit from the program, but so too will our students.

Zack Cooper



FIGHTING FOR THE VOICELESS

Hatch later founded a nonprofit, Spikes K-9 Fund, to provide support for dogs used by police departments and the military, including custom-fit bullet-proof vests and healthcare funding. “These dogs are not volunteers,” Hatch says. “We’re bringing them in to solve human problems, to save our lives. It’s incumbent on us to take care of them the best we can.” So far, Hatch says the organization has helped 900 dogs in 44 states and raised \$1.5 million.

Hatch has also become a vocal advocate for mental health interventions. “A lot of his work is about de-stigmatizing mental illness and mental health,” says Cooper. “When Jimmy tells his story, he gives permission to people who don’t want to talk about these issues to be more comfortable talking about their mental health and accessing care.”

Hatch says joining students on campus is an opportunity to provide an important perspective—even if it’s one that’s not easy to hear. “I went through arguably some of the toughest training imaginable,” Hatch says, “and I still struggled with mental health issues.”

He says he’s looking forward to meeting Handsome Dan. And he’s already embraced his new identity on Twitter at the handle OldGuyUndergrad, where he’s been documenting Mina’s visits to iconic spots on campus.

“I plan to be open-minded,” he says, adding that he’s looking forward to taking courses in the humanities, history, art, and literature. “I feel like I can contribute in a way that’s difficult to find.” ■

Spikes K9 Fund was founded by James Hatch, a retired Special Warfare Operator.

As a K9 handler on several deployments, James’ life was regularly spared by the work of K9s—one of the most memorable was Spike. And on James’ final deployment, the night he was critically wounded, a K9 spared James’ life while losing his own.

From that evening on, James oriented his life around the training, care and preservation of working dogs. In addition to working as the founder and president of the fund, he works with local law enforcement and has adopted a former service dog in need of medical attention. ■

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AMERICAN MADE

HOW THIS RETIRED NAVY SEAL WENT FROM STUNTMAN TO HOLLYWOOD DIRECTOR

20 Sep 2019 | By James Barber | *Military.com*



RETIRED NAVY SEAL JASON CABELL is launching his Hollywood career as a writer/director with "Running With the Devil," a star-filled action picture that offers insight into the lower levels of the drug trade without forgetting to deliver the thrills.

"Running With the Devil" is opening today in select theaters around the country and is also available On Demand and to purchase or rent from iTunes, Vudu, Amazon or your favorite online video source.

Both Nicolas Cage and Laurence Fishburne take lead roles in the picture, but Cabell has assembled a supporting cast that loaded with many more familiar faces than you usually get in a modestly-budgeted action movie. Barry Pepper ("Saving Private Ryan"), Adam Goldberg ("Saving Private Ryan"), Leslie Bibb ("Talladega Nights"), Clifton Collins Jr. ("Traffic"), Peter Facinelli ("Nurse Jackie") and Cole Hauser ("Yellowstone") all contribute star-quality performances to smaller roles.

Cabell didn't give anyone a name in the movie. Every character is identified onscreen by a title. Cage, whose character owns a pizza parlor that's a front for his drug business, is The Cook. Fishburne, a dealer who's become high on his own supply, is simply called The Man.

Fans of Nicolas Cage know his performances in recent years have become more and more outrageous, edgy and weird. In "Running With the Devil," Nic's surprisingly subdued, but Fishburne more than takes up the slack with a trippy performance that matches anything Cage has delivered lately.

Cabell's movie follows a kilo of cocaine from the fields of Colombia to a nightclub in Canada and examines all the destruction the trade leaves in its wake as the package makes its way to its destination.

RELATE: Ex-SEAL Jason Cabell Will Direct America's Most Committed Actor in 'Running With the Devil'

The movie runs a tight 100 minutes and Cabell is content to let the action speak for itself when it can. He's showing some real promise as a director here.

Jason talked with us about his military career, what happened when he arrived in Hollywood, why actors signed on to make his movie and what he's got planned for the future.

JASON CABELL BEHIND THE CAMERA (IMDB)

JB: Tell us about your military career.

JC: Well, I was in SEAL Team. I came in 1991. I was in bootcamp when the "Navy SEALs" movie came out, so before that, I don't think too many people knew very much about [the SEALs]. But I had gone to an airshow and seen the Leap Frogs skydiving. They were driving around convertibles and it looked pretty cool, so I went down and talked to them. They said, "Oh, yeah, we're Navy SEALs. Go talk to the recruiter."

So, I went and signed up and I went home and my roommate said, "Hey, the SEALs do a lot of things in the water and you don't really know how to swim." So, I said, "Yeah, well, I'll figure it out." Everything fell into place. Next thing you know, yeah, I was checking into SEAL Team 5 and did 20 years and seven deployments. A few combat deployments to Iraq and, then I got in, ran BUD/S, and retired.

JB: We talk to a lot of SEALs and the idea of 20 years service and being a SEAL don't really seem to go together that often.

JC: No, it doesn't. To be honest with you, it's like playing football or baseball. You get beat up. I had a couple knee surgeries. I just had stem cell and bone marrow treatments. I ruptured four discs in my back. Just doing training with skydiving and the shooting and ship boarding and all the demolition, it's a grinder, you know?

JB: What gave you your perspective on the drug trade? Is there anything from your SEAL career that gives you some personal knowledge?

JC: Yeah. I worked with the [Drug Enforcement Administration's Foreign-Deployed Advisory and Support Team]. We train with those guys and then I did some missions over in the Afghan/Uzbek border, but that was more with poppies instead of cocaine. You talk to people and I think everybody wants to tell their El Chapo/ Escobar story about the kingpin and the mansions.

But truly and sadly, if you think about the drug trade, it's these decentralized ratlines, which is why you can go anywhere in the world or the country and get any drug you want. We spent trillions on the war on drugs and it's a futile effort.

At the end of the movie I kind of make a point of that when the Agent in Charge, played by Leslie Bibb, meets up with The Cook and says, "We spend all this money and yet you can get drugs any time you want."

This is the true story of the drug trade. It's these people just hiding in plain sight. At the beginning of the movie, Nic's character is hosting a pizza party for a youth soccer team and he's the guy moving cocaine through the western United States.

That's kind of the truth of how it is. If you don't get too greedy or too strange, which The Man does, you'll never get caught. Everybody wants the glitz and glamour of Pablo Escobar, of the kingpins, but this is how it moves. It's these little independent ratlines, if you will, and people just hiding in plain sight.

I don't do drugs, but if somebody said, "Hey, I want cocaine or heroin," you can find it. It's everywhere and that seems bizarre because you go, "Wait a second, we have a Drug Enforcement Agency and law enforcement and border control, how does this stuff keep making its way through?"

Jason Cabell, Cole Hauser and Nicolas Cage on the set of "Running With the Devil." (IMDB)

JB: You've done two things in your life that are almost impossible to do. You've been a SEAL and you've written and directed your own movie, one with a lot of movie stars in it. How do you get from being a SEAL to a career in Hollywood?

JC: It's really hard to reinvent yourself after retirement, because towards the end of your career you're senior in rank and you really know what you're doing and you know everybody and you know the system. The military is an institution, so you know how to do it.

A movie guy said, "Hey, we'd like you to do this helicopter stunt," and it paid really well. Then I did a spec commercial for Ford that never got released. It was a skydiving thing. They said, "Hey, you look pretty good on camera. Why don't you take some acting classes? We've got these reality shows we'd like you to host." So, I hosted a couple of pilots that never got picked up.

I started going to the film festivals to watch how people bought and sold movies. Someone said, "Hey, I heard you were a SEAL, I have this action movie. Would you help me produce it?" He's real big in Australia. So, I helped him produce that movie and I noticed some disparities with the script, so I started reading thousands of scripts, all my favorite movies.

You do a lot of writing in the military when you become more senior, as you know, and you write a lot of reports. I just started writing, and I wrote this script called "Smoke Filled Lungs" and I got it out there and I borrowed the money. Another SEAL had some movie cameras and we shot the movie in ten days.

I got Frankie Faison, who has done a few big movies, like "Silence of the Lambs." People said, "You can't shoot a movie in ten days. You can't do a movie for a hundred grand." Well, I did and it got distributed and it did its run on pay-per-view and it won 19 awards worldwide. I won the Milan Filmmaker Festival for best picture and best actor and we won some best original screenplays.



Right after I wrote "Smoke Filled Lungs," I wrote the beginnings of "Running With the Devil." It was 36 pages with no dialogue and followed the journey of a kilo of cocaine from the plant all the way to the nightclub in Canada.

I had watched "All is Lost" with Robert Redford and "Cast Away" with Tom Hanks, so I wanted a minimum-dialogue movie. I took it to a couple of big production companies and they said, "We love this idea, but you gotta make it more commercial." So, the script kept growing and growing and I got it to that 120 pages.

Then I took it to Patriot Pictures and they said, "Wow, we want to make this movie." They sent it to Nic Cage and they called me the next day and I flew to Vegas to meet with Nic. He's like, "I love this movie, I want to make it." Two days later I met with Laurence Fishburne and then all the actors just responded to the script.

I just wrote another movie that's going in production in January and I'm about to close a contract to write and direct another movie as well.

JB: You've got a loaded cast. It's not just Nicolas Cage and Laurence Fishburne. You've got a whole roster of well-known actors who took small parts to be in your movie.

JC: Well, they responded to the material. My agent gets me face-to-face meetings with these people and actors have to trust you. In making this movie, I hung Nick and Laurence off the side of a cliff at 11,000 feet.

These actors read dozens of scripts a week. Just to get it to them, past the agents and the assistants and everyone that reads the scripts first is difficult, but if you do something new and fresh that shakes it up a little bit, which I've done, they respond. I understand the syncopation and the beats of a normal studio script, but I kind of like flipping it upside down a little bit and being a little unconventional.

I just finished writing "Opioid Nation" and we're going out to some really big actors. It's gotten good coverage. I wish I could tell you who we're attaching right now, but nothing is official, but we have some really big names. And it's gonna be a really big cast again, if they like the material.

Actors want to act more, instead of just being talking heads, they like to act. There are giant moments of silence in my movie, where there's minutes where nobody says anything and you have to really follow the story. I think that's my emerging style.

JB: Okay. People who have been watching Nic Cage over the last decade or so have gotten accustomed to his incredibly experimental, daring performances. Except in your movie, Nic is the most restrained he's been in years. And then Laurence Fishburne seems to be doing the Nic Cage performance.

JC: It's bananas. That's right. And that's how it evolved. We were sitting and talking about these characters and which actor was potentially going to play which character. Then it just devolved to that. You're absolutely right, but there was a moment, I think, where The Cook and The Man may have been flipped; it might have been Laurence playing The Cook and Nic playing The Man, but it just worked out the way it did.



JB: You've succeeded at pulling this off, something that thousands of people to do and never get the opportunity. You've managed to make this film and you're moving on to another, a hurdle that seems even harder to clear. Is there anything from your military service that prepared you to make this happen?

JC: Oh, sure. A million percent. SEAL Team teaches you how to learn really fast. You'll go from never skydiving before to having 50 jumps and then, within a year, you might be teaching people. I went through the Master Training program and was an instructor. If you use those lessons, you learn how to learn fast.

I think that's why I'm doing okay in Hollywood. You have to have the creative side or you won't succeed. You have to know how to write a script that people like and know how to move the camera and direct a scene. But after that, then you have to understand the business side. It is show business, and a lot of people just want to be creative.

If you walk into a production office and you want them to give you \$8 million to film a movie, they're not gonna let you do it if they don't think you're responsible enough to handle that. That's where a lot of people fail as well.

JB: Obviously, you made a law enforcement movie and law enforcement is adjacent to the military. However, a lot of people with your background focus on "inside the military" stories. You're making stories that aren't fixated on your military past. Is that on purpose?

JC: That's a great point and I purposely did that. My next two movies coming up aren't focused on the military, either. People try to silo you in Hollywood: "Well, you were in the military. You can only make military movies."

They say write what you know, but I've been in over a hundred countries. If you observe life and you listen to people and you're creative, then you know a lot of things.

I might eventually make a military movie. There is some stuff in the works that could happen. ■

CALIBER'S 4TH ANNUAL VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON: RECOGNIZING MILITARY EMPLOYEES



IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION, Caliber Home Loans, Inc. held its 4th Annual Veterans Day Luncheon on November 20, 2019. Hosting its largest audience of employees from across the country, the annual event was held near Caliber's corporate headquarters, at the Four Points® by Sheraton Hotel. This luncheon is a time Caliber sets aside each year to honor its own military veterans, reservists, and military spouses. The invited group represented all five branches of the armed forces; Army, Marine Corp, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard.

Caliber's CEO, Sanjiv Das was in attendance. He expressed his gratitude to the military employees for their service. Sanjiv also spoke to the attendees about Caliber's commitment to assisting military homebuyers reach their dream of homeownership and the value that military and veterans can add as employees in the private sector.

Caliber's entire executive leadership team also attended the luncheon. Honored guests and speakers included Maria Mendez Reed, 2019 Armed Forces Insurance Army Spouse of the Year and Eli Crone, CEO of Bottle Breacher.

Caliber Re-signs Statement of Support with Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Caliber has received several ESGR awards for its ongoing support of veterans and reservists, such as the Pro Patria and Seven Seals Awards. Sanjiv reaffirmed Caliber's pledge by re-signing ESGR's Statement of Support (SOS). The SOS Program is intended to encourage employers to act as advocates for employee participation in the military. Employer support is critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the Nation's Guard and Reserve units. This is the fourth year Caliber has signed the Statement of Support. ■



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BANDERA, TEXAS RIDE FROGS FOR FREEDOM



ONCE AGAIN, for the 9th year in a row the “Cowboy Capital of the World” Bandera, Texas hosted the Frogs for Freedom Run.

This year 168 riders rode 125 miles through the rolling Texas hill country. Over 300 people gathered at the 11th Street Cowboy Bar to enjoy live music, dancing, and barbecue. For the SEAL Veterans Foundation, the event raised over \$33,000 dollars.

This year’s event was in honor of volunteer Margie Salyers who recently passed away.

“She was our most active supporter,” said Doc Cox. “For 8 years she always was here performing any task, any time and worked incredible hours. In the past we had always honored a SEAL/SWCC recently lost in the line of duty. This year we felt it only appropriate to honor Margie.”

The largest group again for the 8th year in a row was the COMBAT VETERANS (MA). A total of 70 members participated. This group also plans and leads the ride.

“We could not do this without them,” said Doc Cox. “They are part of our amazing volunteers that makes this event so special.”

The longest rider was Duke Goldthwait who rode his Indian from Seattle, Washington.

The auction as always was one of the event’s highlights. This year’s auction items included a signed and authenticated Charlie Daniel’s fiddle, a custom Vietnam edition AR by the Sons of Liberty Gun Works San Antonio, TX and the ever popular custom, handmade quilt by Julianna Hamilton.

In true Texas style, over 300lbs of Willis Corbin’s and Sammy Neese’s brisket and 100lbs sausage were consumed. The band “Tailgaters” was provided by the 11th Street Cowboy Bar’s owner, James McGroarty, who also donated the venue.

According the Dox Cox, the events ongoing success is due in equal parts to Bandera’s patriotic spirit, great volunteers, and a worthy cause.

“Our many volunteers keep coming because they see the results,” said Doc Cox. “They all love having a cold drink with the UDT-SEAL guys, listening to stories and sharing a laugh. The event is a one-day event, but may people arrive as early as Wednesday and hang out with the locals. Many come every year as far away as California, Rhode Island, Montana, and Florida.” ■

Planning is already underway for next year’s event.



SEAL HISTORY

Underwater Demolition Teams in the Korean War

National Museum of the Navy | History.navy.mil



USS Begor (APD-127) stands offshore, ready to embark the last U.N. landing craft, as demolition charges wreck Hungnam's port facilities, 24 December 1950. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.—last posted date: Feb 18, 2015

The Underwater Demolition Teams next saw action during the Korean War. Read how, from the start of the Korean War in 1950, to the Inchon Landings, to the armistice in July, 1953, Navy UDTs demonstrated remarkable versatility; laying the groundwork for expanded capabilities that would eventually evolve into the Navy SEALs.

Navy Frogmen Conduct First UDT Raid of Korean War

On the night of 5 August the detachment infiltrated from USS Diachenko (APD-123) with their inflatable boat to conduct a demolition raid against train tracks and a bridge-tunnel near Yosu. LTJG Atcheson and BM3 Warren “Fins” Foley, as the swimmer scouts, swam 200 yards ahead of the boat in swift current, exiting the water at a seawall just below their target. After patrolling up a 35-foot embankment and making a hasty reconnaissance, they signaled the remaining men to come ashore with the explosives. Suddenly 10 North Korean soldiers on a handcar came out of the tunnel and opened fire. Foley was hit and fell over the seawall. LTJG Atcheson threw several hand grenades that dispersed the enemy, and this allowed time for the UDT men to get clear and back to their boat for return to the Diachenko. Foley, who had a smashed kneecap and wounds in his hand and thigh, was the first U.S. Navy casualty of the Korean War.

New Kinds of Missions for Underwater Demolition Teams in Korea

During the month of August, additional UDT personnel began to arrive, and were committed to a continuation of this somewhat new mission—night coastal demolition raids against railroad tunnels and bridges. The UDT men were given the task because, in the words of UDT Lieutenant Ted Fielding, “We were ready to do what nobody else could do, and what nobody else wanted to do.” (Ted Fielding was awarded the Silver Star during Korea, and was later promoted to the rank of Captain). For the UDTs, the operational pace in the combat zone frequently found two of their platoons—approximately 30-men forward deployed to a particular Amphibious Personnel Destroyer (APD) for periods of six to eight weeks. Embarked UDT platoons usually ran between 10 and 20 demolition or beach reconnaissance missions while aboard the APDs; depending on weather and enemy activity. Moreover, individual UDT personnel were often away on temporary duty with other military or CIA units; usually for advisory and training duties. This included the forward-basing of small teams on islands close to the North Korean coastline, where they stood alert duty with UN Escape and Evasion organizations assisting in the recovery of downed airmen.

UDT Weapons and Demolitions

Individual weaponry taken by UDT men behind enemy lines was usually limited to the submachine guns, pistols, and knives found most useful for the close-quarters combat that characterized most raiding missions. Though presumably available, sound suppressors for the weapons are not known to have been used. The men used a variety of demolitions in their work, but the standard Mark-135 Demolition Pack, which contained twenty pounds of C-3 plastic explosive was foremost.

Inchon Landings Navy UDT Support of Operation CHROMITE

On 15 September 1950 UDT men supported Operation Chromite, the amphibious landing at Inchon, which resulted in a decisive victory and strategic reversal in favor of United Nations allies. UDT-1 and UDT-3 personnel went in ahead of the landing craft, scouting mud flats, marking low points in the channel, clearing fouled propellers, and searching for mines.

UDT First Combat Dive Using Aqua Lung at Wonsan Harbor

In October 1950 the UDTs supported mine-clearing operations and acted as wave-guides for Marines at Wonsan Harbor. Also in October, two U.S. minesweepers, USS Pirate (AM-275) and USS Pledge (AM-277) hit mines and were sunk. UDT men rescued over 25 sailors. The next day, UDT operator William Giannotti conducted the first U.S. UDT combat-diver operation; using an “aqualung,” when he dove down to locate USS Pledge, and marked its location for later demolition by surface-supplied helmeted divers to destroy classified codes.

Navy Frogmen in North Korea Destroy Hungnam Harbor Facilities

On Christmas Eve 1950 an eight-man squad from UDT-3 destroyed the waterfront facilities at Hungnam, Korea by setting off over 20 tons of explosives after working for hours in severe cold, rain, and enemy sniper fire; as their support ship USS Begore (APD-127) beat off Chinese troops with its 5-inch guns. The demolition operation resulted in the largest single blast to be set off during the Korean War and the largest non-nuclear blast since WWII. *(continued)*



Korean War Operation Fishnet, Underwater Demolition Team Frogmen are briefed by Lieutenant Gordon B. Tribble, on board USS Diachenko (APD-123) as she steamed toward North Korea. The UDT members were on a mission to destroy North Korean fishing nets in order to reduce enemy food supplies. Photo is dated 13 August 1952. Photographed by JO3c D.S. Mannison. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.



Wonsan Operation, October 1950 | Underwater Demolition Team personnel paddle their rubber boat through Wonsan harbor, en route to explode North Korean mines, 25 October 1950. Photographed by C.K. Rose, of Combat Photo Unit Two. Official U.S. Navy Photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives.

Operation FISHNET Last Major Operation Before Korean War Armistice

In September 1952, UDTs participated in Operation FISHNET (also known as SEANET), aimed to reduce North Korea's food supplies by destroying fishing nets. Operations severely damaged the North Korean's fishing capability, where the economy was based on fish as much as on rice. This was the last extensive UDT operation in the Korean War; an armistice ended fighting on 27 July 1953. For the remainder of the war, UDTs conducted beach and river reconnaissance, infiltrated guerrillas behind the lines from sea, and continued mine-location and clearance operations.

Changing Navy UDT Operational Doctrine

The Korean War substantially changed UDT operational doctrine; giving the men vastly expanded mission capabilities. In addition to their traditional roles of amphibious reconnaissance and mine and obstacle clearance, the UDTs saw the scope of their mission expanded to include stealthy infiltration from the sea to conduct raids and attack enemy shipping, port, and harbor facilities; clearance of ordnance from the high seas; intelligence gathering; and the covering of the withdrawal of friendly forces. In the early stages of the war fully half of the Navy's entire UDT force had been committed to the conflict in less than six months. The Navy didn't know what direction this new war might take or how long it might last, but it did know that any further requirements for UDT support in Korea would leave it with no option but to begin stripping the Atlantic Fleet UDTs of their personnel. UDT-1 and UDT-3 supported the early stages of the Korean War, but in September 1951 UDT-5 was established to provide some relief in combat rotations; hence, the Atlantic Fleet UDTs were never committed to battle. UDT-2 and UDT-4 based in Little Creek, Virginia were involved in experimental programs involving the Aqua Lung development, lock-out and lock-in diving operations from submerged submarines, cold-weather diving operations, parachute training, and development and testing of miniature submarines and combatant submersibles.

Business as Usual

Regardless their success in Korea, it would be quickly realized that the post-war Navy was not willing to change the status of the UDTs in response to Cold War realities. As far as the Amphibious Force was concerned, improved training within a WWII mission profile context was sufficient. This would not change until establishment of SEAL Team ONE and SEAL Team TWO in January 1962. ■



NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION



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Veteran Tributes

Honoring Those Who Served

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VETERAN OF:

- U.S. Navy 1996-2011
- War on Terrorism 2001-2011
- Afghanistan 2005-2011 (Multiple Deployments, KIA)
- Iraqi 2005-2007 (Multiple Deployments)



JONAS B. KELSALL

Lieutenant Commander O-4, U.S. Navy

TRIBUTE: Jonas Kelsall was born on November 8, 1978, in Shreveport, Louisiana. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in September 1996, and graduated from basic training at NTC Great Lakes, Illinois, in December 1996. After completing A School training, Petty Officer Kelsall attended Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training at NAB Coronado, California, from February to August 1997. He then received an assignment to complete his bachelor's degree and attend Navy ROTC at the University of Texas from August 1997 until he was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in May 2001. After completing additional training he served with SEAL Team SEVEN at NAB Coronado until May 2008. LCDR Kelsall's final assignment was with Naval Special Warfare Development Group (DEVGRU) at Dam Neck, Virginia, from May 2008 until he was killed in action when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was aboard was shot down in Afghanistan on August 6, 2011. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

HIS 2ND (OF 3) BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/VALOR CITATION READS: For heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy as a Troop Commander for a Joint Task Force in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM from 23 February 2010 to 1 July 2010. During this period, Lieutenant Commander Kelsall consistently exposed himself to enemy fire while leading his force on several direct action raids that resulted in the elimination of numerous enemy insurgents and the detention of many others. On 17 March 2010, during a daring nighttime raid, his assault force quickly eliminated the targeted individual as his position came under heavy automatic weapons fire from multiple directions. As several of his teammates sustained gunshot wounds, Lieutenant Commander Kelsall decisively ordered his assault force to exfiltrate while he prepared to suppress the enemy fighters with close air support. Remaining exposed to an ever-increasing volume of enemy gunfire, he coordinated with multiple air assets to synchronize the timing and location of the assault force's extraction, while laser designating targets to be engaged by aircraft. His superior leadership throughout the firefight resulted in the elimination of the enemy commander and ensured his assault force's safe extraction from enemy territory. By his extraordinary guidance, zealous initiative, and total dedication to duty, Lieutenant Commander Kelsall reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized. ■

IN MEMORIAM

James Vanos

July 6, 2019
Scouts and Raiders in WWII

Johnnie E. Step

August 23, 2019
UDT-11 and UDT-12

George Sasse

August 30, 2019
SBT-20 and NSWG-4

Gabriel Robert Accardi

September 4, 2019
ST-10

Thomas "TAP" Aquinas Power

September 12, 2019
UDT-2

Lucio Delacalzada

September 26, 201
UDT-12 & UDT-3

L. James "Buzz" Busbey Jr.

October 8, 2019
SUDT-21 and UDT-11

Jerold W Smith

October 10, 2019
UDT-21

Larry Jerome Lyons

October 13, 2019
UDT-13, ST-1 and UDT-12

Randall "Randy" Thompson

October 25, 2019
UDT-22

Rudolph "Rudy" E. Boesch

November 1, 2019
UDT-2 (Plankowner), UDT-21, ST-2
(Plankowner), and SOCOM

Correction:

Fall Blast's Memoriam section:

Charles R. Watson

June 23, 2019
ST-2

*For I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*

II Timothy 4:6-7

Survivor Benefits Resources

Burial in a national or state veteran cemetery

http://www.cem.va.gov/cems_nmc.asp

Headstone, marker or medallion

800-697-6947 | www.cem.va.gov

Presidential Memorial Certificates

800-455-7143 | www.cem.va.gov

Burial Allowance

<http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/burials/Burial.pdf>

For more information and assistance please contact Kim Powell

kpowell@udtseal.org

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER PRESIDENT DONALD TOCCI



President Donald Tocci class 33, UDT 21, SEAL Team 2

Donald Tocci is an institution. For over ten years he served as the New England Chapter President. Today, under his leadership, the Chapter has 15 members and are actively involved in the Burlington community.

As part of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Chapter supports local golf tournaments, a black-tie gala, and the BoneFrog challenge. Through this relationship, the Chapter was able to raise over \$4000 this year for Association programs.

In addition, once a month, chapter members transport 3000 pounds of food from the Boston Food Bank to the Burlington Food Pantry. During Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Chapter delivers turkey dinners to deserving families. ■

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*** LOOKING FOR NEW CHAPTER
PRESIDENTS**



INAUGURAL MEETING OF SEAL VETERAN FOUNDATION BOARD

By Randy Wise

The inaugural meeting of the Seal Veteran Foundation Board of Directors was conducted at Admirals Cove in Jupiter, FL on November 6, 2019. Attending the meeting were board members Terri and Phil Ameen, Neil Guinan, Bobby Richardson and Randy Wise. Also attending were Drew Sande, UDT-SEAL Ass. President, Dave Morrison, Executive Director and Steve Gonzalez, Operations Director. Board member Jeff Utsch attended via teleconference. Jeff proposed creating a SVF Endowment Society. The board approved this and created a committee to refine the proposal. The proposed Articles of Incorporation were approved and the Pillars of Support were discussed in detail. The selection of Foundation officers was deferred until a later date. The next board meeting will be held in Scottsdale, AZ on or about March 6, 2020 in conjunction with the Freedom Expo. ■

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*May you and your family
have a joyous and safe
Holiday season*

From your UDT-SEAL Association Team



HOME BASE PROGRAM TBI TREATMENT FOR NAVY SEALs

A TWO-WEEK PROGRAM FOR SEALs IMPACTED BY THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF WAR

In partnership with the SEAL Legacy Foundation, Home Base offers an Intensive Clinical Program (ICP) for Navy SEALs who are dealing with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury or other invisible wounds. In the ICP, SEALs receive close to a year's worth of treatment in two weeks, and follow on complementary care in their home towns.

Treatment, lodging, transportation and meals are covered at no cost to the SEAL.

The ICP Includes:

- Comprehensive Evaluation
- Individual Treatment
- Group Therapy
- Stress Reduction & Resiliency
- Fitness & Nutrition
- Family Support & Education
- Integrative Therapies
- Social Activities

Eligibility: All Navy SEALs are considered, regardless of discharge status. Active duty should coordinate with their command.

Cost: Treatment, food, lodging and transportation are covered at no cost for the SEAL and one accompanying family member.

Care Plan: SEALs and their families work with clinical team to determine an individualized plan.

Family: Family members are an integral part of the healing process and are encouraged to participate in treatment coordination and other program offerings. Family members are also provided their own education and support opportunities.

TO GET STARTED:

Contact Home Base Veteran Outreach Coordinator **Patrick Smith** at psmith30@mgh.harvard.edu or call the Home Base clinic at 617-724-5202.



A RED SOX FOUNDATION AND
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM



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homebase.org/ICP


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