EOD Memorial Grounds Expansion

For years, the entire EOD Community has asked for a space to honor those no longer with us, regardless of how they died, pay tribute to ongoing struggles, and celebrate those who continue to share our lives. After a year of careful planning, we are thrilled to announce that the ground will be broken within the next few weeks and this expansion is slated to be completed in time for the EOD Memorial Gathering in early May 2022. This space and area will honor not only those currently on the EOD Wall but also all those who have served, regardless of era or time in service. This expansion will also help create a space to honor the struggles they faced, the good work that continued after they left service, and remember all those who have had a significant and positive impact in our lives.

The Foundation is asking for your support, specifically earmarked for this expansion, and giving you the opportunity to have a paver placed in honor or memory of someone or a group close to your heart. The entire EOD Community hopes it may count on your support for this long awaited expansion. Thank you again for your ongoing dedication and see you at the exciting unveiling in May 2022.

Additional information and design sketches may be found here: https://eodwarriorfoundation.org/memorial-grounds-expansion/
The EODWF is hosting the Inaugural Points for Patriots Program! It is an opportunity to use the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl Game final score as a platform to raise funds.

Your pledge will help the EOD Warrior Foundation fund initiatives to further assist the EOD community, by providing financial assistance and support to Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard, Retired and Veteran EOD technicians and their families.

The 2021 Armed Forces Bowl is a college football bowl game that will be played on December 22, 2021 on ESPN. It will be the 19th edition of the Armed Forces Bowl, and will be one of the 2021–22 bowl games concluding the 2021 FBS football season.

2021 Inaugural EOD Blast Day

What a Blast!

In October, and under the guidance of General Dynamics’ leadership and range teams, five EOD veterans and their partners gathered for a unique retreat experience that culminated with a range day at the Edgefield Test Center in South Carolina. With the supervision of the range team, each couple created their own explosive scenario and had time to share and discuss the story behind their personal scenario.
In addition, the couples enjoyed quiet time together and as a group to discuss their stories and challenges and the EOD veterans had a chance to show their partners more about the career field they loved. This experience allowed each partner to gain a better understanding of the EOD career field and was given a glimpse into one of the thrills of the job.

Special thanks to General Dynamics, Jonathan West, Christine Traub, Mike Knox, the range team, and the participants who made this three-day adventure truly a blast!

A Few Words from Sherri Beck

We are saying goodbye to Sherri, who is retiring at the end of this year. While we are sad to see her go, we are excited for her, her family, her retirement, and what the next chapter in life holds for her.

Sherri served as the President of the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation for seven years and continued with the EOD Warrior Foundation in 2013 as Director of Programs. She planned numerous retreats, managed logistics, built relationships with other non-profits, and most importantly stayed connected to the EOD community. Her kindness, compassion, and dedication to the EOD family made an incredible impact on countless lives. Sherri will be deeply missed, but the legacy she created will live on, and we are truly grateful for her many years of service.

From Sherri -

"Thank you to all who have made the past 14 years a journey of a lifetime, I will cherish my time with the EOD Warrior Foundation, the great memories made with warriors, families, and the best team there is. The next chapter will be filled with relaxation, creativity, trips in our travel trailer and spending more time with family and friends. The EOD Family is for life and will forever be in my heart."

Community Events

EOD 136 Memorial Workout

This year the EOD 136 raised over $92,000! The event had over 80 teams and 981 individuals, setting a new record for participation and dollars raised. Thank you to the individuals, gyms, groups, and active duty commands who organized local workouts and pushed themselves to
participate in this global event. Your hard work will making a lasting and positive difference throughout the entire EOD Community!

2021 EOD Cycling Series

This year the EOD Cycling Series raised just under $100,000! The events took place in Florida, Virginia, California and virtually, with over 180 riders combined.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

It’s cold, possibly snowy ... the perfect time to dress up, join hundreds of your closest friends, and jump in a lake!

Join us for the 15th Annual Polar Bear Plunge in Fredericksburg, VA on February 12, 2022! Click on the button below to register.

Registration

EODWF Scholarships: 2022-2023

The 2022-2023 Undergraduate Scholarship Application is now open and will close on February 25, 2022. The Graduate Scholarship Application will open on March 1, 2022, and will close on April 30, 2022. To learn more about the EOD Warrior Foundation Scholarships, including eligibility requirements, please click here!

The EOD Warrior Foundation Scholarship is applicable to colleges and universities and trade and vocational schools. It may be applied to tuition, room and board, and other approved scholastic expenses. This very important program allows us to meaningfully contribute to the educational growth of our EOD Community and we are extremely grateful to our donors for their support!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jacques Hope at jacques@eodwarriorfoundation.org.
Each year, the Foundation distributes more than $200,000 to hundreds of students for college and technical school tuition, books, computer needs, and housing costs. We need your help this year to ensure that the program continues and students will be able to count on these scholarships for years to come! Two unique levels have been created for scholarship gifts:

-$500 Level: Named in honor or memory of the person or people of your choice and the opportunity to send a special message to the student.

-$1,000 Level: Items above, plus ability to designate the Branch the recipient is associated with and the opportunity to work with EODWF staff to select a scholarship recipient from the qualified applicants that personifies the person you are honoring.

If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship, click HERE!

### Call To Arms

The 2022 EOD Memorial Weekend is quickly approaching, and it is again time to issue the “CALL TO ARMS” requesting donation of items for the EOD Auction. The EOD Memorial Weekend is our largest gathering of EOD family and friends and the largest fundraiser organized by the EOD Warrior Foundation (EODWF). On Friday, May 6, 2022 we will again gather to celebrate and support our unified community.

This year we are incorporating an On-Line option for a few select items for those individuals that cannot attend the EOD Auction. This call to action goes out to all members of the EOD Family: active duty, retired, prior service, their family members, and friends. Alone, the EODWF cannot fulfill its mission of Disarming Challenges for the EOD Family, but together we can provide our wounded, and fallen, and their families with the support they deserve, and ensure we always remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Please consider donating an item to be auctioned off that evening.

EOD Shops, Teams, Units, Platoons, businesses, and individuals have donated a variety of items over the years that have been incredibly successful. Some ideas include:

Unit’s EOD Challenge Coin Unique display case to assemble a coin collection EOD paraphernalia, EOD furniture, poker chips, poker table, trailer hitch covers, cups, mugs, etc. Blasting Machines (old, new, unique, replicas), EOD Badges/Patches: U.S. and Foreign. Explosive-related reading material- Signed by author if possible

If you are unable to donate, you can still answer the call by contacting businesses for donations that can be used at the auction. Please send donated items to the address below to be received by Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration to support the EOD Warrior Foundation.
Together, as a team, we can continue to carry out the mission of the EOD Warrior Foundation, and Disarm Challenges for our EOD Family.

Ship items to: Melissa Tackitt  
Director of Memorial Care and Events  
EOD Warrior Foundation  
716 Crestview Ave  
Niceville, FL 32578

As 2021 draws to a close and we look forward to 2022, we can’t help but to reflect on the many triumphs shared by the EOD Community this year. Events for thousands, retreats helping hundreds of families, financial grants to help in dire circumstances, scholarship support for both undergrads and those getting their advanced degrees, and, of course, the community generally rallying together to support each other in big and small ways.

In a year of ongoing changes and surprises, the one thing that did not surprise us was the incredible strength and grace by which the entire EOD Community rose to overcome those challenges and we can’t thank you enough.

We hope that we can count on your renewed support this year to help make 2022 even more successful!

Behind the Warrior Podcast

The Behind the Warrior Podcast has surpassed 60 episodes and over 5400 downloads! Thank you!! The podcast’s success would not be possible without the great support of various guests who have shared their stories, organizations, and resources.

There is something for everyone within the episodes and we are still going strong. We encourage you to tune in. If you have suggestions of other guests to interview, please contact Sherri Beck – sherri@eodwarriorfoundation.org.

Ep #60 - Selflove with Maurice Hunter: Maurice explains how he came to the realization of this concept that started with a letter to his daughter.

Ep #59 - American Veterans Archeological Recovery with CEO Stephen Humphreys: Stephen talks about his personal experience of finding his purpose
and passion of archaeology and how it led to sharing this with veterans who may be interested in pursuing archaeology.

**Episode #58 - Purple Hearts Reunited with Erin Faith Allen:** Erin shares the story of how it was founded in 2012 by retired Army Major Zachariah Fike.

Click [here](#) to access the complete list of Behind the Warrior episodes!

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**Wounded Warrior Project**

Providing the EOD Community with financial relief is one of the EOD Warrior Foundation's key Pillars of Support and we are honored to assist families recover their independence and gain access to programs and assistance they might not otherwise be able to afford. We are able to provide this support to hundreds of families through generous gifts from individuals, companies, and through wonderful partnerships with other nonprofits.

As we look to how best to support the community in 2022, we are extremely excited and grateful to be one of the organizations receiving a community partnership grant from [Wounded Warrior Project®](https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org) (WWP). This grant will allow us to expand support and better serve the post 9/11 EOD Community through additional financial and economic assistance. The post 9/11 community accounts for approximately 70% of the grant requests the Foundation receives every year.

Because of partnerships with organizations such as WWP and through your own support, the Foundation has assisted hundreds of EOD Families most in need in 2021. This includes access to additional medical, mental, and rehab therapies, healing retreats and programs, fun community events, scholarships, and financial grants for those who need a bit of extra help to overcome life’s challenges. Without your support and without wonderful partnerships, these programs wouldn’t be possible!

As we wrap up 2021 and look forward to 2022, a heartful Thank You! to everyone for making a lasting and positive difference in the lives of so many.
The EOD Warrior Foundation continues to provide financial support and resources to EOD Technicians of every era, to include those who served both pre- and post-9/11.

To learn more about how you and your family can benefit from our financial grant program, please click here.

**Giving for Tomorrow**

EOD has been part of your life for years and EODWF is there for you and your family every step of the way. From support to new graduates and their families to scholarships for the grandchildren of Vietnam-era EOD Techs and everything in between, we fully embrace the belief that the EOD Community is for life. We are here for you and are grateful that you are here for us!

Ensure your legacy and support to the EODWF and EOD Community continues by including EODWF in your Will or living trust. For more information, please contact Patricia Adelmann, Development Officer, at 770.655.4028 or patricia@eodwarriorfoundation.org or speak with your financial or legal advisor. The process is simple, quick, and completely confidential.

**Monthly Giving**

With just a few dollars a month, you can make a major impact on the lives of an EOD Community Member who needs a bit of help. Your reoccurring gift adds up quickly and make a big difference in the support the Foundation and our programs give to this wonderful community. Check out the Reoccurring Gift button at

www.eodwarriorfoundation.org/donate today and add your support.

**Check out the "Reoccurring" option under the Donate button today.**

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**2022 Events**

- **2/1:** EOD Memorial Ball Tickets On Sale
- **2/12:** Polar Bear Plunge - Fredericksburg, VA
- **3/12:** St. Patty's Leprechaun 5k/10k/Half Marathon - Fredericksburg, VA
Please add your support for the EOD Warrior Foundation programs today!

Donate Now!

Follow us!