

The Blaster News

FIRST QUARTER 2022

Can't wait to see you again!



We are pleased to announce that the EOD Weekend is back in full swing! It's been two years since we've all been able to come together, and we are so excited to welcome everyone to the EOD Weekend Events May 6

and 7. Join with us as we remember those no longer with us and celebrate the power and connection of this amazing community.

To create a unifying experience for all, we will continue to offer the option of select remote viewing locations for those who prefer to gather locally with smaller groups. For remote viewing locations and additional details about the EOD Weekend including the Golf Tournament, Auction, Memorial Ceremony, Family Event, and EOD Ball, please visit the **2022 EOD Memorial Weekend page** on our website.

As always, there is NO cost to attend the EOD Auction and EOD Memorial Ceremony.

2022 EOD Memorial Weekend Info



New in 2022, we are hosting an EOD Family Day immediately after the EOD Memorial Ceremony. This event will be at 3rd Planet Brewing in Niceville and kicks off at 10am. Fifteen EOD Chefs will be cooking for all to taste in a stiff cookoff event where winners will be announced. We hope you and your family can join us!

EOD Memorial Grounds Expansion: Let the digging commence

Ground has been broken, commemorative benches have been ordered, the statue is getting its final touches, and the first batch of personalized pavers are waiting to be put in the ground.

We invite you all to join us for the official Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, May 5, with the specific time announced soon.



The EOD Warrior Foundation is grateful for all the support the community has shown for this long awaited expansion area. We look forward to this being a space where you can sit and reflect on our community, honor those no longer with us, and celebrate those who continue to share our lives.

To add your support to this project and purchase your own personalized paver for the space, please visit the EOD Memorial Grounds Expansion page on our website.

[EOD Memorial Expansion Project](#)

Songwriting with: Soldiers

We kicked off our retreat season February 11-14. Partnering with Boulder Crest Foundation, EODWF brought EOD Warriors and their spouses to Bluemont, VA to participate in Songwriting with: Soldiers. During this retreat, the couples shared their experiences and challenges with professional songwriters. These songwriters turned those stories into beautiful music. Studies have shown that collaborative songwriting can affect post-traumatic stress and overall veteran wellness, so we excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our community.

During this retreat, Boulder Crest offered many other wellness activities in addition to songwriting, including equine therapy and yoga.

Our next Songwriting with: Soldiers retreat is scheduled for April 22 – 25 at Boulder Crest in Sonoita, AZ. Please see this link for more information. Questions? Please contact **Ashlee Steinhart, EODWF Hope & Wellness Coordinator.**

It's Time to Tangle:



Zentangle is a guided, meditative art practice that flows with intention and provides a creative, relaxing outlet. It's easy to learn and, once you sign up, we'll send you all the materials you need for the virtual, interactive class with an instructor and other EOD Community Members.

Next Beginners Course: Monday, April 5

There will be two time slots available and you can sign up by [clicking here!](#)

Thank you to Tasha Sprovtsoff, EOD Gold Star Spouse, for teaching this virtual event!

How You Can Help:

EOD Remembrance Flag Program

This summer, EOD Community Volunteers will once again place EOD and US flags on as many graves of EOD Techs around the country. The goal is to have all US graves marked by the end of the summer and we need your help to make this happen.

Volunteers will be supplied with the flags, instructions, and as much detail as possible on the exact location of the graves.

Regardless of location, chances are, there is an EOD Tech laid to rest somewhere near your town or community ... from townships in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to villages in New Mexico and big and small towns across all 50 states. We ask that you join with us in remembering these men and women and honoring them for their service.



EOD Auction

After the success of the Online Auction in the last couple of years, we realized that we can continue to bring this hallmark event to the entire EOD community, no matter where you may be located! Like last year, this year, the EOD Auction will have both an online and in-person component. The online platform for the EOD Auction will open at 12:00 PM CST on May 6, and will remain open for a full 24 hours... so there is plenty

Questions? Please contact Patricia Adelman, Development Officer

Learn More!



of time for you to place a bid on your favorite item!

We will continue accepting donated items for the auction for several more weeks! If you are sending an item via mail, we ask that you please ensure the item reaches our office no later than Monday, May 2. For people attending the in-person event, doors will open at 4:30 PM CST for day-of drop off.

For more information on how you can donate an item to the EOD Auction, please click **here!**

Be sure to follow us on social media for sneak peeks and important updates, including early registration!

For more information on the EOD Auction and the events of the 2022 EOD Memorial Weekend, please click here.

Stay Informed:

Burn Pit Exposure

Many military veterans have suffered health problems as a result of burn pit exposure. Open-air burn pits are large areas of land that were used as a means of waste disposal of items such as plastics, medical waste, rubber, human waste, and more, releasing toxic fumes and harmful chemicals into the atmosphere.

According to the VA, if you served in the Gulf War after Aug. 2, 1990, Afghanistan or Djibouti, Africa after Sept. 11, 2001, or were part of OEF/OIF/OND between 2003-2011, you may have been exposed to airborne hazards. Exposure may cause the following signs or symptoms: reduced central nervous system function, reduced liver or kidney function, stomach, respiratory, or skin cancer, leukemia, respiratory system conditions, cardiovascular conditions, among others.

For more information on how the VA is supporting veterans exposed to burn pits visit: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/>

Behind the Warrior Podcast



Join Maria Schabla to hear interviews with EOD Warriors and experts focused on improving the lives of EOD Warriors, their families, and the military community at large. These inspirational stories will make you laugh and cry and will make you realize how connected we all really are.

Upcoming episodes include conversations with Air Force Veteran Anthony Cerrone, President of the EOD Motorcycle Club, and a discussion with Alexandra Bradley and Jason Youngblood with Cigna on the importance of Mental Health and how the Cigna's

Veteran Support Line is helping the military community around the world.

More information and podcast links may be found here!

2022-23 Post-Graduate Scholarships

Interested in continuing your education, furthering your career, or maybe branching into a new, exciting direction? The EODWF Scholarship Program can help!

Thanks to generous donors, last year the Scholarship Program was expanded and now includes post-graduate specific scholarships. Each scholarship is open to EOD Family members, including spouses, children, and grandchildren.

The 2022-2023 Post-Graduate Program Scholarship opened March 1st. Applicants will have until May 13, 2022 to complete and submit their application. Good luck!

Visit www.eodwarriorfoundation.org/scholarship-program to learn more.

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!](#)



We Remember

VFW Post 7530 in Mechanicsburg, PA is preparing to pay one of its highest honors to SSG Kimberly Ann Fahnestock-Voelz.

On April 30, 2022, VFW Post 7530 will be renamed **Kimberly Ann Fahnestock-Voelz Memorial Post No. 7530**. This event is open to any who wish to join and help the community honor this outstanding EOD Technician.

SSG Kimberly Ann Fahnestock Voelz was killed on 14 December 2003 while assigned to the 703rd Ordnance Company. She is honored and remembered, along with all of those killed in action, on the EOD Memorial Wall and EOD Virtual Wall.

EOD Home Buying



We are so excited to be working with Justin and Christine Hamilton of EOD Home Buying! In addition to assisting EOD families across the country with their home purchasing needs, the Hamiltons have generously pledged to donate 5% of their PERSONAL commission to the EOD Warrior Foundation. Simply mention the EODWF when working with them! The Hamiltons are licensed lenders in all 50 US States, so no matter where you are located, they can assist you. Learn more about their nation-wide network by visiting www.eodhomebuying.com or contact the Hamiltons directly by calling 815-908-9363!

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and plan to join the EOD community, friends, & family for the 11th Annual Warriors Helping Warriors bottling party! Live music, food, fun, & plenty of wine!



**May 28th, Tackitt Family Vineyards -
Paso Robles CA**

Tickets go on sale May 1!

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 Adelman, 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

Giving can be easy, painless, and still make a major impact! Just sign up for a reoccurring gift and we will be happy to charge your card a set amount on a set schedule until you tell us to stop! Your small (or large!) gifts add up quickly and make a big difference in the lives of EOD Techs and their families.

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

Upcoming Events

March

March 16: Beginner's Zentangle

March 20: 2022 Memorial Bataan Death March

March 26: 2022 3rd Annual EODWF Poker Run

March 29: Vietnam Veterans Day Event

April

April 5: Beginner's Zentangle

April 22 – 25: EOD Couples Songwriting with: Soldiers

April 30: EOD Memorial Challenge

May

May 5-7: EOD Memorial Weekend

May 28: Memorial 5k, 10k, & Half w/ Bishop's Events

May 28: Warriors Helping Warriors @ Tackitt Family Vineyards

May 29-30: Carry The Load gathering & rally

Please add your support for the EOD Warrior Foundation programs today!

[Donate Now!](#)

Follow us!



