

The Blaster News

Third Quarter 2022

Arlington National Cemetery: We Remember!



As part of the EOD Remembrance Flag program, the EOD Community gathered on Friday and Saturday, September 23rd & 24th, at Arlington National Cemetery. There, in respect of ANC's guidelines, over 310+ biodegradable wooden discs stenciled with the EODWF bomb & heart logo were placed on all the known EOD graves located in the cemetery. In addition, a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknown to honor the 80+ EOD Techs listed as MIA, Lost, or Buried at Sea.

The wreath, adorned with a scroll listing the names of those lost and missing, was presented by Lieutenant General Reynold Hoover (Ret.), U.S. Army and LTC (Ret) Bob Leindecker, U.S. Army.

They were joined by over 150+ volunteers, including EOD Techs from Fort Belvoir, Indian Head, and Andrews AFB, friends, and family. The regular tourists who were simply touring Arlington that day were treated to a spectacular sight of full dress uniforms and the deep love and respect the EOD Community shares with all who ever wore the badge.

As always, our thanks to Crescent Cities Charities whose generous grant makes this program free for all participants. And, to the hundreds of volunteers who have placed EOD Flags around the country this year!



EODWF & Force Blue Partnership

The EOD Warrior Foundation is proud to partner with Force Blue to send EOD Gold Star children and young adults to an ocean conservation school. This school, created by Force Blue and NAUI Worldwide, gives participants the opportunity to earn their Open Water Dive training and learn about why the fight to preserve and restore the world's oceans and marine habitats is so important.

Force Blue's mission is to unite the community of Special Operations (SOF) veterans with the world of coral reef conservation for the betterment of both. This organization gives former combat divers a chance to experience and explore one of the most critically endangered ecosystems on the planet and to utilize their training and team work to aid in its protection.

The Ocean Conservation School for EOD Gold Star children and young adults will take place in Phoenix, Arizona from November 10 - 14, 2022.

For more information on the incredible work Force Blue is doing, please visit forceblueteam.org



EODWF Programs: Removing the Stigma



A huge thank you to John Clem, Jeff Truex and Dr. Tonic Krueger for being part of the Removing the Stigma talk in Niceville on September 16. This event and community gathering was to specifically discuss the importance of removing the negative perceptions surrounding mental health.

The round table discussion included speakers from the EOD Community and a mental health professional. John Clem shared his personal and inspirational story to serve as hope for others facing similar struggles. Jeff Truex, Co-Founder and

current President of [After the Long Walk \(AtLW\)](#), shared information about suicide prevention, AtLW's active Facebook page, peer support network, and 24 hour hotline (1-888-412-0470). Dr. Krueger provided insight on actions families and friends can take if a loved one is at risk of harming themselves or others.

Mental health is just as important as our physical health. The EODWF is committed to working with others and removing the stigma surrounding mental health which prevents many from getting the care they need and deserve.

Increasing Support to EOD Families:



Serving & Supporting Together ...

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 expand our support for the community in 2022-23, we are extremely excited and grateful to be once again be one of the organizations receiving a **community partnership grant** from **Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP)**. This grant will allow us to increase support and better serve the post 9/11 EOD Community through additional financial and economic assistance. The post 9/11 community accounts for approximately 80% 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 2022. 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 2022 and look forward to 2023, a heartfelt Thank You! to everyone for making a lasting and positive difference in the lives of so many.

EODWF Event: EOD Dedication Cycling - CA

We are two months away from the 3rd annual Veterans Day Cycling Event Hosted By Tackitt Family Vineyards supporting the EOD Warrior Foundation. Two road routes and two gravel routes plus guests are encouraged and invited!!! In addition, there is an all new Friday event to help get you ready for Saturday's ride ...

Friday 11 November:

Tackitt Family Vineyards: 1:00 to 4:00 - bicycle clinic that consists of tune-ups/maintenance, bike wash and care (SCC-Tech), bike rentals (Paso Robles Bike Tours), bike storage overnight for Saturdays ride, a 17 mile "loosen the legs" and along with Spark Wheels displaying their products. The bike clinic and storage is free for registered riders and guests.

The Tackitt Family Vineyards Tasting Room will be open for sampling of EOD Cellars in honor of Veterans Day. Cost is \$10.00 with that fee going towards purchase of any two bottles of wine.

Cal Coast Brewery - 5:30: social gathering for all riders and guests in downtown Paso Robles.

Saturday 12 November:

Ride Location: Tackitt Family Vineyards, 6640 Von Dollen Road, San Miguel CA 93451

Registration & Check-In: 9:00 AM

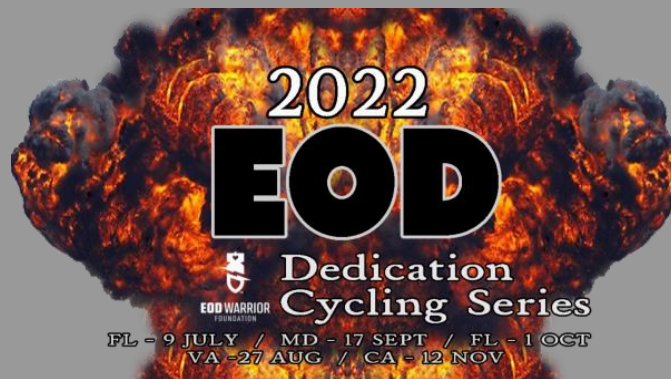
Start Time: 10:00 AM

Post-Ride Event: Band, wood-fired pizzas, wine, beer, and Cold Stone Creamery
SAG support provided

Registration and/or donation link found [HERE](#)

Guest/Non-Riders: for those riders who plan to have guests join in the post-ride festivities please register for admission [HERE](#)

Bicycles, wine, good food and friends all for a great cause... Hooyah!!!



EODWF Event: Golf Tournament, Nov. 3

Charity Golf Tournament

November 3, 2022



EOD WARRIOR
FOUNDATION

St. Johns Golf & Country Club / 205 St. Johns Golf Dr., St. Augustine, FL 32092

[Register Here!](#)

EODWF Event: Stacy Strong Walk, Nov. 5 Lake Miramar – San Diego, CA

*Mark your calendars ...
more information coming soon!*



2022

5
Nov

STACY STRONG



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!

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

October

October 1: EOD Dedication Cycling Event, Niceville, FL

October 1: EOD 137 Memorial Workout

October 6 - 10: Teen Retreat at Work Family Ranch, Paso Robles, CA

October 8: Three Fox 5K & 1M, Delaplane, VA

October 13 - 15: EOD Blast Day with General Dynamics, Edgefield, SC

October 14: Kirtland Golf, Kirtland AFB, NM

November

November 3: Golf Tournament, St. Augustine, FL

November 4 - 7: Barksdale Hunt - Barksdale, LA

November 4 - 10: EOD Female PATHH Program, Sonoita, AZ

November 5: Stacy Strong 5K, San Diego, CA

November 10 - 14: Force Blue Gold Star OCS

November 12: EOD Dedication Cycling Event, Paso Robles, CA

December

**December 4: EOD Warrior Holiday Dash 7K,
Half & Marathon, Georgetown - Washington D.C.**

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

Donate Now!

Follow us!

