

The Blaster News

Second Quarter 2024

Upcoming Events and Retreats

June

June 2: Dash Through the Dirt: 5k, 10k & Half Marathon, Potomac, MD

June 8: EOD Monthly Gathering, Las Vegas, NV - Lone Mountain Park

June 9: EOD Warrior 5k & Half Marathon, Washington, DC

June 24 - 29: Force Blue Ocean Conservation School, Juno Beach, FL

June 29: EOD Monthly Gathering Niceville, FL - Post 1 Point, Eglin AFB

July

July 27: EOD Warrior 5k & 10k, Reston, VA

August

August 10: 50th Anniversary of Women of EOD Event

August 10: Carderock Charge 5k, 10k & Half Marathon, Potomac, MD



EOD WARRIOR
FOUNDATION

Dear EOD Family and Friends,

Thank you for your incredible generosity and support so far in 2024. This year's EOD Weekend was incredible. We honored and remembered the 344 EOD Heroes whose names are inscribed on the Memorial Wall on the morning of Saturday May 4th, and celebrated their lives that evening with 1200 in attendance at this year's Ball. The golf tournament and EOD Chef's event were both a tremendous success and the Auction raised almost \$110,000, which is without a doubt, a record for us.

This year we also saw a record number of applicants to our scholarship program and we were able to continue to grow the number of awardees. By adding 46 undergraduate scholarships this year and continuing our 10 graduate level scholarships we awarded 188 scholarships for the 2024-25 school year, totaling over \$350,000. That we've grown so much in recent years is because of you. No amount of words can adequately thank our community partners, volunteers, staff, board members, donors, and countless others who have given so generously of their time and talents to enable us to continue to meet the growing needs of the EOD Family.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve this community over the past 12 years. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked for and alongside the most amazing people in the world. Thank you for your years of patriotism, faithful support, and continued generous giving.

With gratitude,

Nicole A. Motsek

Nicole Motsek
Executive Director



EOD MEMORIAL Weekend

May 3 - 4, 2024



What a joy it was to come together once more to remember, honor, and celebrate this incredible community and its members. From the lively Friday Night Auction to the solemn and deeply moving EOD Memorial Ceremony on Saturday morning, culminating in the thrilling and bustling EOD Ball, this truly was an EOD Weekend to remember in Florida. For those unable to join us in person, many marked this special occasion with their own unique gatherings and viewing ceremonies. The Foundation was thrilled to support events and gatherings spanning from one side of the world to the other and many locations in between. It is always an honor to host these events, and seeing everyone come together again was truly heartwarming!



We can't wait to see you

May 2 - 3, 2025

Beautiful blue skies, a fantastic golf course, more than a dozen generous sponsors, and 132 eager players of various skill sets ... the 2024 EOD Memorial Golf Tournament was an exciting start to the always memorable EOD Memorial Weekend. The EODWF extends its deepest thanks to key sponsors such as R3, First Liberty Building & Loan, Wounded Warrior Project, presenting sponsor – EOD Home Buying & Justin Hamilton, and amazing volunteer leader TSgt Greg Spearman for spearheading and organizing this event for the second year in a row.



The event was also supported by incredible Air Force EOD students who did everything from placing signs to helping run registration. This event highlights the joint, community effort by everyone in the EOD Community and wouldn't have been possible without this teamwork! This year's Golf Tournament raised almost \$21,000, benefiting all of the EODWF's programs and was sold out by end of March. We look forward to seeing you all again next year and hope to expand the tournament to allow even more players. Thanks again to EOD Home Buying and Greg Spearman for their generous support and leadership!

2024 EOD Memorial Challenge

The 2024 EOD Memorial Workout Challenge brought together participants in a tribute to fallen EOD technicians. Through rigorous exercises, including a 4 mile ruck, .5 mile swim, and a 4 mile run, participants honored the sacrifices of those who served with their own sweat and blood. The event, a blend of physical exertion and remembrance, underscored the unity and gratitude within the EOD community.



Be Part of the Solution

To better understand and support the well-being of our community, we ask that you participate in our Mental Health Survey. This survey is anonymous and confidential. Your responses will be solely used for research purposes.



EOD WARRIOR
FOUNDATION

Mental Health
Survey



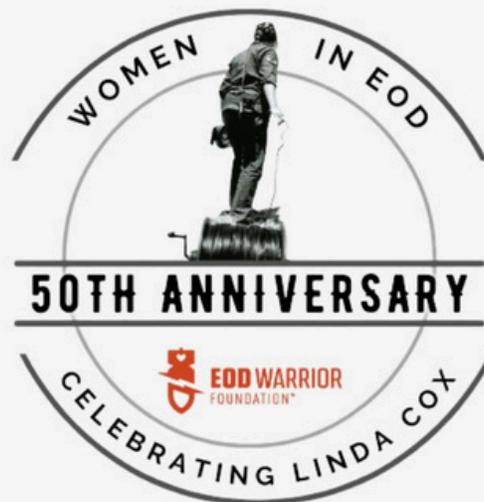
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Linda Cox Joins EODWF Honorary Board

The EODWF is proud to welcome Linda Cox, Chief Master Sergeant, USAF (Retired), to our esteemed Honorary Advisory Board. With an illustrious career spanning the Air Force and post-retirement ventures in Munitions Mediation, Linda brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to our organization. Notably, Linda has been passionately involved in fostering the professional growth and development of women in EOD and students at NAVSCOLEOD. As a trailblazer, she holds the distinction of being the first woman to attend and graduate from NAVSCOLEOD, culminating her journey as a Chief Master Sergeant with utmost distinction. Join us in celebrating Linda's remarkable achievements and her invaluable contributions to our community!



SAVE THE DATE



AUGUST 10TH, 2024

THE ISLAND RESORT
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL

Join us for a day of celebrating 50 years of Women in EOD! Kick off the day with a morning ruck, starting and ending at the EOD Memorial, and close your evening with dinner and fun at The Island Resort! This event is not just for military personnel. ALL ARE WELCOME!
More details to come!

The Fourth Annual EOD Chef's Memorial Cook Off



The 4th Annual Chef Cook Off at The Gulf was a huge success, and a great time was had by all.

The force was with all of us, as four brave teams representing each branch of the military competed for the title. The Air Force was represented by Team Jedi, led by Lauren Corona; the

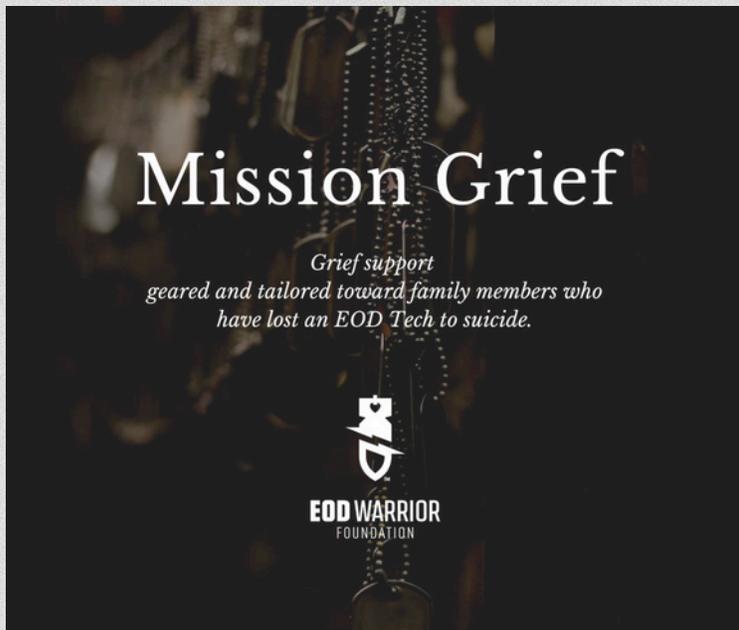
Marine Corps was represented by Team Mandalorian, led by Don Pilcher; the Army was represented by Team Booby Trapped, led by Josh Tygret; and the Navy was represented by team Sith, led by Scott Hostetler.

Congratulations to Lauren Corona and Team Jedi for coming out on top with their tasty winning dish, Fried Chicken Sliders!

Thank you to our sponsors USBTA, EOD Home Buying, Hannah Kathryn Events, Crab Zone, Inert Mugs, F-Bomb Designs, Veterans at Rathbun, Gulfshore A/C, Cedar Stone Bison Ranch,

Eglin FCU, Katie's House of Flowers, Regrut Knives, Dr. Woo, and the Crocker Family.

We hope you'll join us next year and maybe even consider showcasing your own culinary chops!



<https://forms.gle/NJt9hJZQz2EmuxhF7>

EODWF is proud to announce the launch of “Mission Grief” a grief support group geared and tailored toward family members who have lost an EOD Tech to suicide.

Grief and loss are experiences we all will face. Processing the intentional death of a loved one can often feel overwhelming and impossible. In this peer-based program, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the Tasks of Mourning and learn new coping skills and strategies to assist and initiate healthy grieving patterns and expectations.

Group meetings will be held virtually, once a week for 6 weeks and are free of charge.

Times and days will be customized to the availability of participants.

If you are interested in participating, please use the link provided or contact Michelle, at Michelle@EODWarriorFoundation.org.



It is with a mix of emotions that we bid farewell to our incredible Executive Director, Nicole, as she embarks on a new chapter in her journey. Today, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for her dedication, tireless efforts, and remarkable leadership during her time with the EOD Warrior Foundation.

Nicole has been the driving force behind so many of our successes, championing our mission to provide support to the brave men and women of the EOD community and their families. Her passion for our cause, coupled with her boundless energy and genuine compassion, has touched the lives of countless individuals and families, offering them hope, strength, and comfort in their times of need.

Under Nicole's guidance, the EOD Warrior Foundation has flourished, expanding its reach and impact in ways we never thought possible. Her strategic vision, coupled with her remarkable ability to connect with people on a personal level, has transformed our organization into a beacon of hope and support for EOD warriors and their loved ones across the world.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Nicole has been a true friend and mentor to many of us, inspiring us to be our best selves and reminding us of the importance of serving others with humility and compassion. Her kindness, integrity, and commitment to our cause have left an indelible mark on our hearts and minds, and her absence will be keenly felt by all who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

Nicole, on behalf of the entire EOD Warrior Foundation family, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your extraordinary leadership. You have been an inspiration to us all, and we are profoundly grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside you. As you embark on this new journey, please know that you will always have a special place in our hearts, and your legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come.



-EODWF Staff & Board

EODWF Remembrance Flag Program

Thank you so much for your support in helping to honor all EOD Techs through the EODWF's Remembrance Flag Program. The goal of this annual program is to place EOD Flags on the graves of all EOD Techs, regardless of branch, years of service, or cause of death. We Remember ...



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!



Gift Donation of Stock & Wire Transfers

We welcome your gift of appreciated stock and wire transfers!

Please contact Patricia Adelman, Development Officer for Broker and Account numbers. It's easy, quick, and great way to add your support!

EOD Warrior Foundation Phone: 850.729.2336
EOD Warrior Foundation Address: 716 Crestview Ave. Niceville, FL 32578
Nonprofit EIN#: 20-8618412

Thank you again for making such a positive and lasting difference in the lives of EOD families.

Monthly Giving

Giving can be easy, painless, and still make a major impact! Just sign up for a recurring 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 Recurring option under the Donate button today.

