

The Blaster News

Second Quarter 2025

Upcoming Events and Retreats

June

June 7: Yoga and Brunch Fundraiser at EODWF, Niceville, FL

June 7: EOD Monthly Gathering - Brad Halling American Whisky Co., Southern Pines, NC

June 12: EOD Monthly Gathering - Old Man Rush Brewing, Eagle River, AK

June 23 - 28: Force Blue Ocean Conservation School, Juno Beach, FL

June 28: EOD Monthly Gathering - Beach Bash at Post 1 Point, Eglin AFB, FL

July

July 26: EOD Warrior 5k & 10k, Reston, VA

July 26: EOD Monthly Gathering, Emerald Coast Science Center, Fort Walton Beach, FL

August

August 30: EOD Monthly Gathering, Task Force Pizza Co., Crestview, FL



EOD WARRIOR
FOUNDATION

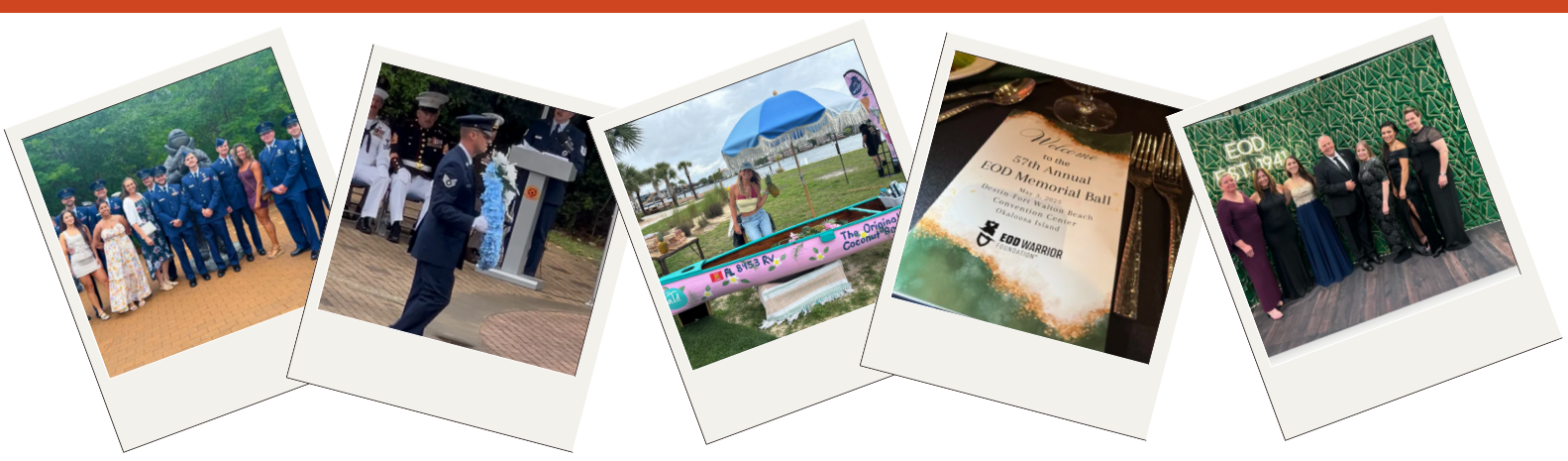
Honoring Our Own: 2025 EOD Memorial Weekend Highlights

From May 2–3, 2025, the EOD community gathered in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, for our annual EOD Memorial Weekend—a time to reflect, remember, and reconnect.

Friday, May 2: Golf Tournament, Gold Star Luncheon, TM Session & Auction

Friday kicked off with the Golf Tournament at Gator Lakes on Hurlburt Field, where EOD techs, veterans, and supporters enjoyed camaraderie and competition. At the Gold Star Luncheon, we honored the families of our fallen in a heartfelt gathering. The day also included a Transcendental Meditation session hosted by Gold Star spouse LaShana Douville—offering space for peace and reflection. That evening, the community united at the EOD Auction, raising vital funds for programs that support EOD warriors and families.





Saturday, May 3: Memorial Ceremony, Chefs Cook-Off & Memorial Ball

Saturday began with the 56th EOD Memorial Ceremony, where we added the name of U.S. Army 1st Lt. Zachary Galli to the Memorial Wall—bringing the total to 345 fallen EOD technicians. SMA Michael Weimer delivered a moving keynote, reminding us: “Four services, one badge, a shared legacy.”

The afternoon featured the lively EOD Chefs Cook-Off at The Gulf, with great food, music, and fellowship. Jeff Truex took first place with his delicious brisket grilled cheese and Lauren Corona came in second with her yummy pulled pork ramen. The weekend concluded at the 57th EOD Memorial Ball, where CSM Dave Silva captured the spirit of our community: “It’s not about the badge; it’s about the heart behind the badge.”

We’re deeply grateful to all who attended, volunteered, or supported this meaningful weekend. Your commitment ensures our mission lives on—and that our heroes are never forgotten.

To learn more or get involved, visit: eodwarriorfoundation.org



We can’t wait to see you next year!

May 1- 2, 2026

Beautiful blue skies, a fantastic golf course, more than a dozen generous sponsors, and 120 eager players of various skill sets ... the 2025 EOD Memorial Golf Tournament was an exciting start to the always memorable EOD Memorial Weekend.

The EODWF extends its deepest thanks to our key sponsors:

R3
EOD Home Buying
Point One
First Liberty Building & Loan
Engineering Assessments & Inspections
Wounded Warrior Project
After the Long Walk
Mohr's Automotive
Bo Burns State Farm
Joseph Vizenor

Thanks also to the companies who donated prizes and gifts for the goodie bags, including Crab Zone, Bones Coffee, Boathouse Landing, Buffalo Gals, and Craken Golf.

And, an equally warm shoutout to our amazing volunteer leaders Chris Armantrout and Nico Bustos for spearheading and organizing this event. The event was also supported by incredible Air Force EOD Techs 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 **\$24,500**, benefiting all of the EODWF's programs and was sold out by the 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 R3, EOD Home Buying and Nico and Chris for their generous support and leadership!



2025-26 EOD Warrior Foundation Scholarships

Due to the generous support of donors like Ken & Julia Falke, Global Harvest Produce, and you, the Foundation is giving **\$309,500** in Undergraduate and Trade School scholarships to 178 students & **\$60,000** to 12 Graduate level students for the 2025-26 School Year!

Contact the Foundation on how you can create your own scholarship and add your support! Thanks again to the Falkes and Global Harvest Produce!



2025 EOD Memorial Auction

On May 2nd, over 1,500 attendees came together for the annual EOD Auction, raising nearly \$75,000 in support of the EOD Warrior Foundation. The event featured both online and live auctions with a variety of donated items, including memorabilia, travel packages, and handcrafted goods.

The evening was filled with energy and generosity as members of the EOD Community and supporters bid enthusiastically to fund programs that assist EOD Technicians and their families through scholarships, financial aid, and support services.

As part of the annual EOD Weekend of Events, the auction showcased the strength and unity of the EOD Family—turning bids into meaningful support for those who serve. We can't wait for an even bigger event next year!



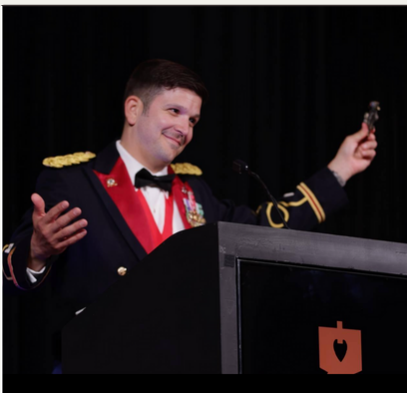
57th EOD Memorial Ball

The 57th annual EOD Memorial Ball brought together the EOD community on Saturday, May 3rd, for a powerful evening of tribute, unity, and celebration. Held at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center, the event honored fallen EOD Warriors while celebrating the strength and legacy of the EOD family across all military branches.

CSM Dave Silva delivered a moving keynote address that honored the fallen and inspired those continuing the mission, emphasizing the values of service, sacrifice, and camaraderie.

CPT Michael Villahermosa served as Master of Ceremonies, leading the program with professionalism, humor, and heartfelt dedication. His iconic “Coin Drop” closed the night on a memorable note and will be hard to top next year.

With a record 1,200 attendees, the evening continued with dancing and connection, turning remembrance into a celebration of life, service, and community. The 57th EOD Memorial Ball stood as a testament to the enduring spirit of the EOD Community.



Honoring Service and Advocacy: 2025 DC Luncheon Highlights EOD Week on the Hill



The EOD Warrior Foundation proudly hosted the annual DC Luncheon during this year's EOD Week on the Hill. This meaningful event brought together members of the EOD Community, military leadership, veterans, and supporters to recognize the ongoing service and sacrifice of EOD Technicians.

Held in Washington, D.C., the luncheon provided an opportunity to strengthen connections within the EOD Family, share updates on the Foundation's mission, and reflect on the legacy and future of EOD service.

A special thank you goes to Zero Point, whose generous sponsorship made it possible for seven active-duty EOD technicians to attend. These included service members from the July 2024 rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, as well as the All-Army Team of the Year winners. Their presence added depth and meaning to the event, highlighting the real-world impact of EOD service and the importance of continued support for those who serve.

During the week, attendees also visited the National Museum of the United States Army, where new pylons honoring SGM Leon "Pappy" Kline and MSG Jeffery Dawson were unveiled. These tributes recognize two legendary figures in the EOD Community and ensure their stories will continue to inspire generations to come.

The DC Luncheon remains a powerful tradition during EOD Week on the Hill, bringing together those who share a deep commitment to honoring the fallen, supporting the living, and ensuring the EOD mission continues with strength and purpose.

Save the Date - Arlington National Cemetery

Wreath Ceremony Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Friday, October 17, 2025
12:15 PM

Flower Placement for All EOD Technicians

Friday, October 17 & Saturday,
October 18, 2025

More details to follow.



2025 RAMPART RIDE

NOV 7TH & 8TH

TACKITT FAMILY VINEYARDS
6640 VON DOLLEN ROAD
SAN MIGUEL, CALIFORNIA 93451

23 and 46 imile routes to choose from!



**EOD WARRIOR
FOUNDATION**

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/2025rampartride/>

RIDE. LIVE MUSIC. FOOD. BEER & WINE

EOD *Monthly Gathering*

The EOD Warrior Foundation believes that the EOD family is for life and understands the tremendous value of community and connection. Our monthly gatherings, sponsored by EODWF, are family-friendly with food and drinks provided.

Find an EOD Monthly Gathering in your area! We are proud to host gatherings in:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 📍 Niceville, Florida | 📍 Havre de Grace, Maryland |
| 📍 Huntsville, Alabama | 📍 Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri |
| 📍 Anchorage, Alaska | 📍 Las Vegas, Nevada |
| 📍 Fairbanks, Alaska | 📍 North Carolina |
| 📍 Luke AFB, Arizona | 📍 El Paso, Texas |
| 📍 San Diego, California | 📍 San Antonio, Texas |
| 📍 Colorado Springs, Colorado | 📍 Washington, D.C. |
| 📍 St. Pete/Tampa, Florida | 📍 Seattle/Tacoma, Washington |
| 📍 Oahu, Hawaii | 📍 Yakima, Washington |



Stay connected and find more details on the EOD Monthly Gathering Facebook page.

EODWF & O2X Human Performance

On Friday, May 16, 35 members of the EOD Community gathered at The Douville EOD Facility on Eglin Air Force Base to participate in the newest EODWF Program and Partnership. Thanks to a generous grant of Forever Warriors Foundation, powered by Step One Automotive, the EODWF was able to provide the O2X Human Performance Workshop to the 96th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight and EOD Techs, Active Duty and Veterans, residing in Okaloosa County.



The O2X Program is one of the nation's leading subject matter experts across all areas of human performance, including nutrition, fitness, and mental health resilience. Each event is staffed with members of their professional team, and the entire one-day course was customized for those in the EOD Community.



The workshop focused on injury prevention, nutrition, and sleep and fatigue, includes a one-year subscription to the program app for continued support. Based on feedback, response, and follow-on comments, the Foundation hopes to bring this program to other EOD heavy areas by 2026.



Meet our Staff!

Get to know the friendly faces behind the EOD Warrior Foundation! Each quarter, we'll introduce staff or board members who help support our mission.

Meet Maria Schabla!



Maria is the guiding light for EOD Warriors and their families during their toughest times. As our Financial Grants and Resources Coordinator, she helps ensure those in need receive the financial assistance they deserve. But that's not all—Maria also hosts the Behind the Warrior podcast, sharing powerful stories from the EOD Community, and she's one of the masterminds behind the EOD Monthly Gathering, bringing connection and camaraderie to Warriors far and wide.

💰 Need help navigating financial assistance?

🎧 Looking for an inspiring podcast?

📅 Want to connect with fellow EOD Warriors?

Maria is your go-to!

🌱 EOD runs deep in her roots! Maria is the daughter of a retired Air Force EOD Officer, which makes her dedication to this community even more personal.

🧘 Fun fact: She's a certified crystal practitioner, meaning she keeps the office protected with her healing energy. If you ever need a little extra good vibes, Maria's got you covered.

🌍 Before joining the Foundation, Maria wore many hats—she's an Air Force veteran, served in the Peace Corps, and worked as an LPN. No wonder she's so good at taking care of people!

🏠 When she's not working her magic for EOD families, Maria is at home in Niceville with her husband Jeff and daughter Marlowe; probably adding to her crystal collection or making sure everyone around her is feeling their best.

✨ Maria-isms ✨

✅ Can probably recommend a crystal for whatever you're going through.

✅ Has a heart big enough to take care of an entire community (and she does!).

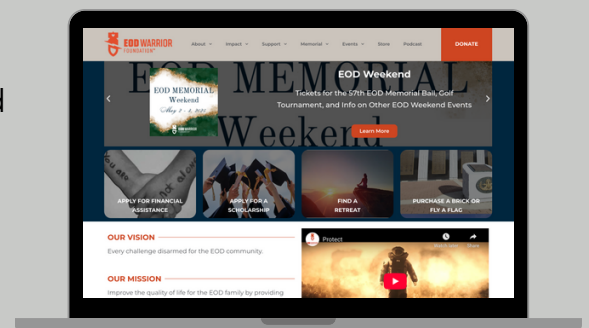
✅ Has 8x10 autographed portraits ready for when she becomes a famous podcast host.

eod-wf.org is LIVE!

The EOD Warrior Foundation has a brand-new website — and it's better than ever!

Visit us now at eod-wf.org

(Don't worry - eodwarriorfoundation.org will still get you there!)



2025 EODWF Flag Program



For the sixth consecutive year, thanks to a generous grant from Crescent City Charities, the EOD Warrior Foundation proudly launched the EOD Remembrance Flag Program this March, a heartfelt initiative dedicated to honoring the lives and legacies of all fallen EOD Technicians.

With your continued support, we aim to place an EOD Flag at the final resting place of every EOD Technician, regardless of military branch, length of service, or cause of death. This meaningful gesture ensures that no sacrifice is forgotten and every hero is remembered.

We invite you to be a part of this powerful tradition. Whether you would like to volunteer to place flags in your area or simply want to learn more about the program, please visit: <https://eod-wf.org/flag-program>

A special thank you to Christine and Justin Hamilton, Keily Yemm & the San Antonio EOD Monthly Gathering, Kristina Gunger-Clancy, and MAJ Travis Staub & 1LT Nikko Ware with the 303D Ordnance Battalion EOD (Hawaii) for sharing these moving photos and for your dedication to the EOD community.



EOD HOME BUYING

We are so excited to be working with EOD Home Buying! Between offering unmatched referral & lending services, they have it ALL to get you through the home buying/selling process! In addition to assisting EOD families across the country with their real estate needs, the Hamiltons generously donate 5% of their PERSONAL commission to the EOD Warrior Foundation.

Whether you need an agent to help you buy or sell your home, OR you need access to one of the nation's TOP lenders, they can assist you. Learn more about their nationwide network by visiting www.eodhb.com or call them directly!

EOD Home Buying 850-366-3370
The Hamilton Team 815-908-9363



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.

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.

