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Donations to Navy SEAL Foundation Increase 32-fold *A grateful country shows appreciation for Navy SEALs*

(Virginia Beach, Va., May 12, 2011) – Donations to the [Navy SEAL Foundation](#) increased 3,216 percent over this time last week as grateful Americans honored U.S. Navy SEALs through individual contributions that ranged from \$5 to as much as \$5,000.

“We were overwhelmed with the response, which will benefit our foundation’s giving programs and endowment fund tremendously,” said James A. Smith, the foundation’s executive director. “On any given day, over half the Naval Special Warfare force is forward-deployed to some of the most austere, often hostile lands on the planet. While they are focused on the mission at hand, the Navy SEAL Foundation supplies the very same vigilance providing support to their families here at home.”

Formed earlier this year when the SEAL-Naval Special Warfare Foundation and the Navy SEAL Warrior Fund joined forces, the Navy SEAL Foundation provides assistance to the Naval Special Warfare community by:

- Providing tragedy assistance for families who have lost a loved one in training or combat.
- Supporting family events to uphold morale and camaraderie.
- Awarding scholarships and providing educational assistance to active duty personnel, their spouses, and children.
- Preserving the rich history and heritage of the Naval Special Warfare community.

Last week was one of the busiest yet for the foundation, with increased visits to its website (www.navysealfoundation.org) and new [Facebook](#) page, where visitors posted their thanks to the SEALs. One fan said he had dedicated his bar shift total to the foundation in their honor, while another noted, "I would give a million dollars if I could." Hundreds of visitors expressed their gratitude, including one who wrote: "Thank you for the warm blanket of freedom and sacrifice made by you and your families."

Foundation leaders hope the increased awareness of the Navy SEAL Foundation will encourage other to consider a gift in the future.

"It's a wonderful way to honor someone you know or to express your gratitude," said Smith, a retired Navy SEAL. "Ninety cents of every dollar donated goes toward foundation services, which provide assistance to the Navy SEAL community during times of both adversity and achievement."

The foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, offers numerous giving opportunities, and online and text donations (to donate \$10, text SEAL to 90999), make it easy to donate. In addition, funds may be earmarked for the Navy SEAL Foundation Endowment Society with a goal of raising \$25 million to perpetually honor and support the Naval Special Warfare community. The foundation is certified by the Independent Charities of America as a "Best in America" Charity.

In addition, the Navy SEAL Foundation is involved with a variety of national fundraising events, including its successful partnership with the PGA TOUR through a series of "Birdies for the Brave" tournaments held throughout the country and its [Navy SEAL Tribute Celebration](#) held in the fall at Half Moon Bay Golf Links, just south of San Francisco.

For information about the Navy SEAL Foundation, visit www.navysealfoundation.org.

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