

PRESS RELEASE

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$5,000 TO NAVY SEAL FOUNDATION

Memorial plaque commissioned as a tribute to 17 SEALs and five Naval Special Operations Support Personnel who died in combat in Afghanistan

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SACRAMENTO, CA – In recognition of the 17 Navy SEALs and the five Naval Special Operations Support personnel that made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country earlier this month, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of California Foundation announced today a \$5,000 donation to the Navy SEAL Foundation. VFW District 1 Commander Dale Smith along with VFW Life Member and retired Navy SEAL Leonard Coppenrath presented the contribution at the SEAL Reunion in Imperial Beach, CA on Saturday.

“The VFW as its motto honors the dead by helping the living,” said Smith in a letter from VFW State Commander Bobby Price at the reunion. “These 22 Special Operations personnel represented the best in warriors that this country has to offer. The VFW understands the strain placed on the families of the fallen as well as those of the active duty forces and stands ready to assist. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and teammates of those who have died on the battlefield.”

In addition to the check presentation, the VFW Department of California has commissioned a plaque to be cast honoring each of the 17 SEALs and five Naval Special Operations Support Personnel by name with the hopes that this plaque will be posted in the hall of honor within the Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado as a lasting tribute to these brave men.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is America’s largest organization of combat veterans. Since its inception more than 100 years ago, the VFW has donated millions of dollars and volunteer hours, been a strong supporter of the country’s youth, and of patriotic and educational efforts. The VFW has also been an unwavering advocate to the military, its veterans, and their families.