

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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SSG Alex Viola Foundation

“SSG Alex Viola Foundation Makes Record-Setting Donation to Military Organizations for 5th Year In a Row”

KELLER Texas – January 2020

The SSG Alex Viola Foundation will donate a total of \$90,000 to the Green Beret Foundation and the Special Operations Warrior Foundation in a 10am presentation January 23, at the Keller City Town Hall. Among those expected to attend will be SOWF Executive Vice President, Col. Sean Corrigan (Ret.) and Major General James G. Champion representing the Green Beret Foundation.

The money was raised in large part through the 5th annual SSG Alex Viola Memorial Car Show presented by Statewide Remodeling and American Airlines. The event took place November 10, 2019, in Keller. This represents a 50% increase over the previous year. The show drew over 350 classic cars, several hundred spectators, including 13 Green Berets, and a flyover by four F-16 jet fighters.

Over the past five years, the SSG Alex Viola Foundation has donated close to \$230,000 to the two organizations.

The SSGAV Foundation was established in August 2015 in honor of Staff Sergeant Viola, who lost his life to an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) November 17, 2013. The organization’s goal is to provide support for fallen and wounded Special Operations Warriors and their families.

“The SSG Alex Viola Memorial Car Show is one of the most significant local military events of the year providing needed support to our warriors. American Airlines is tremendously proud to be a part of such a meaningful organization that does great work within the military community and we’re privileged to honor the memory of Staff Sgt. Viola,” said Randy Stillinger, Manager of Military and Veterans Initiatives for American Airlines.

Plans are already underway for the 2020 show, scheduled at the Keller Town Hall for ***Sunday, November 8.***

“We are very grateful to the participants and sponsors who continue to provide

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outstanding support and contribute to this event's success. To be able to support two terrific veterans organizations is extremely gratifying and exactly what my son would have wanted", according to Frank Viola, father of Alex Viola and Administrator of the SSG Alex Viola Foundation.

Attached is a link to the event video:

<https://www.facebook.com/frank.viola.56/videos/pcb.1191905104341800/10217595572535286/?type=3&theater&ifg=1>

About SSG Alex Viola

Alex was born in the suburbs of Long Island New York in 1984. In 1993, the family relocated to Keller, Texas as part of a job transfer. Upon graduating high school, he enrolled into the University of North Texas and he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree. Rather than entering the traditional workforce, he decided to begin his career in the military. His aim was high and he was determined to become a member of the Special Operations community.

Through years of intense physical training and subjecting himself to the physical and mental demands of Special Operations training he was determined to be one of America's best. In 2011, Alex graduated as a member of the US Army Special Forces, a Green Beret. He went on to get his Combat Dive Certification and was later assigned to the 3rd battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), ODA 7325 stationed at Eglin Air Force Base in Destin, Florida. In September 2013, his team deployed to Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. On November 17, 2013 Alex lost his life to Improvised Explosive Device (IED) while on dismounted patrol.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, the Warrior Leader Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course, the Special Forces Qualification Course, the Advanced Leader Course and the Combat Diver Qualification Course.

Alex's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two Noncommissioned Officer Development Ribbons, the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Special Operations Dive Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

About the Green Beret Foundation:

Founded in 2009, the Green Beret Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the long-term health of the Green Beret community. The Foundation answers the call of the Green Berets and their families, so that they can succeed in their next mission. The Green Beret Foundation provides casualty support, extended care support, family support, and transition support to aid in this transitioning process. For more information, visit: www.greenberetfoundation.org.

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About the Special Operations Warrior Foundation

The Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) began in 1980 after the daring attempt to rescue 53 American hostages in Iran, which ended in tragedy when a helicopter and C-130 aircraft collided. Eight souls were lost and they left behind 17 children. A battlefield promise to take care of those 17 children has become the noble cause of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The Special Operations Warrior Foundation ensures full financial assistance for a post-secondary degree from an accredited two or four-year college, university, technical or trade school, as well as family and educational counseling, including in-home tutoring, to the surviving children of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps special operations personnel who lose their lives in the line of duty. The foundation also provides immediate financial assistance to severely wounded and hospitalized special operations personnel. The Special Operations Warrior Foundation has provided scholarship grants, to over 1,000 children, who survive over 900 Special Operations personnel who gave their lives in service to our country.