

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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SSG Alex Viola Foundation

“SSG Alex Viola Foundation Makes Record-Setting Donation to Military Organizations for 8th year in a row”

Keller, Texas – March 2023

The SSG Alex Viola Foundation will donate a total of \$100,000 to the Green Beret Foundation and the Special Operations Warrior Foundation in a 10am presentation March 9, at the Keller City Town Hall. Among those expected to attend will be Frances Arias, Interim Executive Director of the Green Beret Foundation and COL (Ret) Sean Corrigan, Executive Vice President of Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

The money was raised in large part through the 2022 SSG Alex Viola Memorial Car Show presented by American Airlines. The most recent event took place on November 6, 2022, in Keller. The show drew over 340 classic cars, several hundred spectators, including 7 Green Berets, and an air show featuring 7 acrobatic airplanes. The SSG Alex Viola Foundation, established in 2015 has donated to-date over \$470,000 to the two organizations which support fallen and wounded U.S. military Special Operators and their families.

"We are so grateful to everyone that participated and supported the annual SSG Alex Viola Memorial Car Show," said Ms. Frances Arias, Interim Executive Director of the Green Beret Foundation. "We extend our deepest thanks to the Viola Family for their relentless support and for making the car show an impactful opportunity to honor SSG Viola's service, sacrifice, and legacy."

"The Viola family and the SSG Alex Viola Foundation have selflessly supported Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) and the families our organization serves for many years. Their on-going efforts honor the service and sacrifice that their son, Alex, exemplified, as well as the sacrifice of all fallen SOF Warriors by ensuring surviving children of Special Operations Forces are provided with full educational opportunities, "cradle to career" (preschool – college). SOWF, and our families, are grateful for all that they have done for us," commented COL (Ret) Sean Corrigan, Executive Vice President of Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

"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

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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.

"We are very grateful to the participants and sponsors who continue to provide outstanding support and contribute to this event's success. To be able to support two terrific veterans' organizations is extremely gratifying and exactly what our son would have wanted", according to Frank Viola, father of Alex Viola and Administrator of the SSG Alex Viola Foundation.

Plans are already underway for the 2023 show, scheduled at the Keller Town Hall for ***Sunday, November 5.***

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 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.

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About the Green Beret Foundation:

The Green Beret Foundation (GBF) provides U. S. Army Special Forces soldiers and their families with emergency, immediate, and ongoing support. GBF assists over 5,000 families each year and continues to provide programs and services in support of the Special Forces Regiment on a daily basis. Since its inception in 2009, GBF has invested 84%, or 84 cents of every dollar, into its programs and services, which has totaled to over \$16 million that has directly supported the Regiment and its families. GBF is the only nonprofit solely dedicated to supporting Green Berets and their families that has achieved a 4-Star Rating with Charity Navigator for two consecutive years. Also, GBF is the sole special operations Nonprofit that is accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of preparing, filing, and appealing disability claims. To learn more about the Green Beret Foundation, please visit greenberetfoundation.org

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.