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U.S.Exercise Tiger Association
National Commemorative Foundation

Recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Defense, Secretary of the Army & Navy, USCG & Members of Congress NATIONAL FOUNDATION OFFICE ~ WWW.EXERCISETIGER.ORG

Susan C. Haines, National Executive Director ~ P.O. Box 246 ~ Columbia, MO 65205 ~ Ph. #877-WW2-TIGR

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR: ALL STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA ......PRINT AND TV

WHO: THE U.S. EXERCISE TIGER ASSN. CEREMONY

WHAT: Honor wounded warrior & outstanding combat comrades at wreath laying ceremony

WHERE: U.S. COAST GUARD STATION

BARNEGAT LIGHT, LBI, NJ

WHEN: APRIL 28, 2015 AT 12:00 NOON

CONTACT: SUSAN HAINES, NATIONAL EXEC.

DIRECTOR, ph.# 573-356-3093

OR USCG STATION COMMANDER KEVIN SPEER

AT STATION ph.# 609-494-2661

**WOUNDED WARRIOR AND COMAT K9 "CARLY"** 

TO RECEIVE MEDAL OF COMBAT VALOR at

NATIONAL EXERISE TIGER CEREMONY @

**USCG STATION BARNEGAT LIGHT NEW JERSEY** 

NATIONAL MEMBERS Over 3000 members

## U.S.T.F. NATIONAL OFFICE ...

On Tuesday, April 28, the National Tribute to the WWII Battle of Exercise Tiger hosted for the 4th year at USCG Station Barnegat Light, 2 very special "military warriors" will be honored. TSgt. Brian Williams, USAF, a wounded warrior and his K9 "Carly" will both receive the U.S. Tiger Foundation's highest honor. TSgt. Williams lost his leg in combat while on patrol in Afghanistan while assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division Bravo Company. His combat K9 "Carly" was with him on April 25th, 2012, when an enemy blast wounded Carly's handler, TSgt. Brian Williams. Their actions, however, prevented the 82nd Airborne Troops from being wounded or killed.



General Ray Jons, Air Mobility Commander said, "It was the worst moment of the worst day for SSgt. Williams." For his actions, Williams received the Army's bronze star for bravery and purple heart. On Tuesday, at USCG Station Barnegat Light, TSgt. Williams will be presented with the USTF's highest award, the "Medal of Combat Valor" for his actions. Carly (Military Working Dog #M745), a German Shepherd, will receive the Blue Tiger Award for military working dogs.

BUT, by special waiver, Carly will also receive the Medal of Combat Valor, becoming the nation's first and only combat canine to receive this medal. "Carly is our tenth Military Working Dog to be honored and the Board felt strongly that Carly TRULY IS A COMBAT K9, and should receive the Medal of Combat Valor for his actions that day!" stated Susan Haines National Executive Director. After the blast Carly stood by and watched over SSgt. Williams until 82nd Airborne Combat Medics could get to him and save his life.

Since its inception, only 255 Medals of Combat valor have been awarded. Carly is the only canine to receive this prestigious medal. Also, Carly will be the first non Coast Guard Military dog allowed at the USCG base.

Other highlights include the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Laying at Sea Ceremony provided by the Station's 47 foot motor life boat, the longest such wreath laying in USCG history. A US Navy rifle detail from Naval Weapons Station Earle base will render 21 gun honors. "Multiple wreaths and flowers will be laid to honor wounded warriors, NJ Submarine Service, the Marine and Army crew from the Black Hawk Helicopter Crash (March 10, 2015, Elgin, FL), USCG Petty Officer Nathan

Bruckenthal (who died in Iraq in 2004) AND THE 798 SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WHO DIED IN THE WWII BATTLE OF EXERCISE TIGER." stated Haines.

Exercise Tiger was a top secret dress rehearsal for the D-Day invasion. During the training exercise German Navy warships attacked 8 US Navy LST Troop Ships of Convoy Taffy-4. Two LSTs were sunk, a third crippled. One fourth of a 4,000 man force was lost in combat. "Tiger" remained a secret until the mid eighties.

In 1989 the Nation's first ever tribute to the Forgotten Battle took place at the VFW Post 3729 in Brandt Beach, NJ (LBI). And the first wreath laying in their memory was performed by the USCG.

On April 28th, the United States Tiger Foundation will mark its 25th year of honoring "Tiger", and the USCG 26th year of wreath laying. "In fact over 15 USCG Stations throughout the nation and world will be laying wreaths simultaneously. "We have stations from Massachusetts to Florida on the east coast and from Washington state to southern California on the west coast plus 2 USCG Cutters participating for the 4th straight year. A national "Ring of Honor" by the USCG!!!" said Haines.

Various elected officials, and senior Army, Navy & Air Force officers will deliver remarks by the Secretary of the Navy and Army.

There is limited seating available. Contact Susan Haines @ 573-356-3093 if you would like to take part in this historic event.

What had a humble beginning off the coast in 1989, is now a national tribute that has honored over 15,000 veterans and military members. To donate contact the U.S. Exercise Tiger Association, P.O. Box 246, Columbia, Missouri 65205

The public can view the wreath laying at the bay by the Barnegat Light House, on LBI, NJ at 1:00 p.m..

END.