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Former Highest-ranking SNCO of the U.S. Armed Forces Joins North Florida Nonprofit

(Ponte Vedra, FL) - K9s For Warriors, one of the nation's leading veteran service organizations for post-9/11 veterans is proud to announce the addition of our nation's former highest-ranking Senior Noncommissioned Officer to its team. Having just retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in August 2016, Sergeant Major Bryan Battaglia, a New Orleans, native will now be donning a new uniform as he becomes the Director of Strategic Partnerships.

"We are thrilled at the opportunity that Sergeant Major Battaglia brings to our Resource Development Department," said founder, Shari Duval. "His vast experience and relationships among the military community will be invaluable to our team. As one of our Ambassadors, we will be able to plan better for the long-term financial sustainability to care of our wounded veterans, notably defeating our country's veteran suicide epidemic."

Battaglia's nearly 37-year career consisted of various prestigious positions, including the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (SEAC) and the Command Senior Enlisted Leader to U.S. Joint Forces Command. He earned some of the military's top awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals with Combat Valor, and the Purple Heart. His time in service took him to Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. His enduring passion for military members and families now drives him to embark on a new venture with K9s For Warriors.



"Even though I have officially retired from the Armed Forces, I will continue to serve," said Battaglia. "I am joining K9s For Warriors because I truly believe in its mission. Providing a thoroughly trained service dog permits a long-lasting medicinal recipe for physical, emotional, and mental wellness to the wounded who qualify to attend our program. I am honored to continue to directly impact our service members, veterans, and their family members."

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About K9s For Warriors

K9s For Warriors was founded in 2011 by Shari Duval. After her son, Brett returned home as a contractor from Iraq with Post Traumatic Stress Disability; Duval recognized that there was a need to treat innovatively and effectively the devastating epidemic. What started out as an idea developed into a passionate nonprofit organization committed to saving the lives of rescue dogs and military heroes

K9s For Warriors is a 501(c)3 dedicated to our American Warriors who have sacrificed their tomorrows for our todays.

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alike. Since 9/11, there have been 130,000 veteran suicides (22 lives lost a day to PTSD). Through a three-week, live-in training program – at no cost to the veteran – K9s For Warriors graduates are able to return to civilian life with dignity and independence while reducing their risk for suicide. The mission of K9s For Warriors is to stop the nearly 22 daily suicides altogether. The organization has become the nation’s preeminent organization providing service dogs to post-9/11 veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma. To date, 272 veterans have been matched to service dogs.

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