



SofiaITC Newsletter Sep 15, 2018 Edition 3

OPERATION ONE VOICE WITH BILL STEVENS

My family and I had the privilege of joining Operation One Voice on the beach in Destin, FL after their grueling trek on road bikes (yes...bicycles) from Lawrenceville, GA to Destin, FL as part of their 12th Honor Ride held each year ending just prior to September 11th as a remembrance of the lives lost on 9/11. The ride honors a different individual or group within the Special Operations Forces community each year with this one honoring the MARSOC Raider 7 group.

The ride encompassed four days of riding for 383 miles and escorted by law enforcement personnel from City, County, and State (Georgia and Florida) throughout the trek for safety and support.

Once the riders arrived in Destin, they met up with their families to enjoy rest and relaxation on the beach; known this year as the 8th Warrior Weekend.

After being invited to join their group for the weekend, I decided to sit down with Bill to get to know his organization and how they are "Quietly Supporting the Quiet Professional" through their tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designed by police officers, firefighters, and community leaders.

So Bill, How did you get your idea or concept for the business?

Shortly after September 11, 2001, I like most police officers and firefighters raised funds to support our brothers in NYC. My police job including working with several Federal Agents and one asked what I was going to do to support the military (this was sometime in October of 2001). I decided to change my 9/11 Public Safety challenge coin into a SOF 9/11 challenge coin, raise a few dollars to purchase coins to send overseas to those with boots on the ground (Initially this was focused in two areas; teaching my son to respect our Special Ops and to show the SOF troops that public safety supports them). Within weeks we brought together other agencies and business leaders to raise capital in support of fallen and wounded SOF Families.

What made you choose this type of business?

The Brotherhood between public safety and SOF communities post 9/11.

What was your mission at the outset?

Operation One Voice is a program designed by police officers, firefighters and community leaders to raise funds to help support the immediate needs of children and families of fallen and wounded Special Operations Forces. Special Operations Forces consist of US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC); Naval Special Warfare



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MISSION CRITICAL SOLUTIONS

Command (NSWC); Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC); Marine Force Special Operations Command (MARSOC), and Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC).

What's your company's goals?

Make a difference in the lives of fallen and wounded SOF families.

To what do you attribute your success?

Developing a committed Team, insuring No red tape, remaining quick and responsive and living by serves before self.

How do you advertise your business?

This is very difficult to answer, because we pride ourselves on quietly supporting the quiet professionals.

We have several business owners that believe in our mission and they push the cause throughout their network. We also work with formal and informal channels within the public safety and SOF community.

How has technology, such as computers and the internet, impacted on how you conduct business?

Obviously we depend on computers and the internet to conduct business as it's our primary means of communicating with those we serve.

For more information, contact: Bill Stevens, Operations One Voice at bill@operationonevoice.org

Sometimes I am amazed at how small the world can be or maybe and more probably the Lord has us all on a path. ~ Bill Stevens

14TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES RUN

In Honor of SGM (Ret.) Billy Waugh

Operation One Voice and the 13th Special Operations Forces Run Team are seeking +100 USSOCOM personnel to join the SOF Run Team for the final 2 mile formation run into Busch Gardens Park honoring our fallen & wounded SOF warriors and all veterans on Veterans Day, November 9, 2018.

All runners will receive a SOF Run jersey and challenge coin, runners and their families will be provided passes to the Busch Gardens Park and encouraged to enjoy the park immediately after the closing ceremony.

Those wishing to join the SOF Run Team for the final 2 mile formation jog from the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, should plan to be dropped off at the hotel before 10:00am on November 9, 2018 and have their families proceed to Busch Gardens Park. SOF families should check in at the park and go to the designated finish line (Busch Gardens Park officials will provide additional information at the park).

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IN HONOR OF SGM (RET) BILLY WAUGH

