

# THE BLAST

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**JAN & JOE KERNAN**  
*A New Beginning on an Old Farm*

## JOHN P. CONNORS MEMORIAL FUND

On a cool crisp autumn evening on the South Shore of Boston in early October 2022, a tight knit and dedicated group of family, friends, high school classmates, college, and 7 members of SEAL Team FOUR (1989) met for a kickoff dinner event to honor LTJG John Connors USN. This dinner was the first public step in an effort to design, cast, and dedicate a statue of LTJG Connors in his hometown of Scituate, Massachusetts. Just over 33 years ago in December 1989, LTJG Connors was killed in action in Panama during OPERATION JUST CAUSE. Three of his teammates, ENC Don McFaul, TM2 Isaac Rodriguez, and BM1 Chris Tilghman were also killed.

The John P. Connors Memorial Fund is now raising funds for the statue through private and corporate donations and a GoFundMe Campaign from across the country. The Fund's goal is to raise \$750,000. All SEALs and community benefactors are invited to join the effort to honor LTJG Connors and Naval Special Warfare's role in OPERATION JUST CAUSE. To date the Fund raised \$52,700.

The Town of Scituate, MA will host the statue on the Town Common. The Fund commissioned Chas Fagan a nationally prominent sculptor with an extraordinary portfolio of USN heroes and public figures, to design and cast a larger-than-life bronze statue of LTJG Connors. A design concept of the statue is now complete, and the work continues in earnest to move this project to completion in early 2024.

On June 3, 2023, the Executive Committee of the Connors Memorial Fund will host a black-tie gala fundraiser adjacent to the USS Constitution in the Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, MA. SEAL Teammates of LTJG Connors, Navy and Marine Corps leaders, friends and family members, national and state politicians, and University Presidents will celebrate his legacy and service.

The Connors Memorial Fund has the support of the UDT-SEAL Association, the SEAL Family Foundation, The Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Navy Paddles, the American Gold Star Mothers Inc., and over 40 former Naval Special Warfare operators from SEAL Team FOUR and Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) Class 148.

The Military Advisory Committee of the John P. Connors Memorial Fund includes General Officers and Flag Rank Officers from all four-Armed Services. This includes a former Commandant of the USMC, a former Chairman of the JCS, a former Commander of the 160th SOAR, and college and NROTC classmates of LTJG Connors from Worcester, MA. All this would not be possible without the Connors family including his mother Joan, his brother Joe Connors Jr, his sisters Joan Marie and Julie Connors, and his nephews John Connors and William Connors.

Additional details can be found at [www.ameasureofaman.org](http://www.ameasureofaman.org) or by contacting SOCM Ross Munro, USN Ret at [sekiu62@yahoo.com](mailto:sekiu62@yahoo.com) and Lt Col Tom Cappelletti USAF Ret at [jetconsultant@gmail.com](mailto:jetconsultant@gmail.com). ■

