



# LT MICHAEL P. MURPHY NAVY SEAL MUSEUM

## VISIT US TODAY!

-  TUES- SUN  
10:00AM- 4:00PM  
CLOSED MONDAYS &  
SOME HOLIDAYS
-  50 WEST AVENUE  
WEST SAYVILLE, NY 11796
-  +1 631-589-7325



[WWW.MURPHSEALMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.MURPHSEALMUSEUM.ORG)

## Education is Key

A large portrait of LT Michael P. Murphy catches the eye of every visitor who walks into the museum. **“Education will set you free.”** The quote above the portrait is attributed to LT Michael P. Murphy, who was a dedicated reader and believed that education is key.

The museum has hosted over 4,500 students since opening in July of 2022 including visitors from 46 states and 39 countries. It is the mission of the museum to educate young scholars about the bravery, sacrifices and duties that all U. S. Navy SEALs perform day in and day out on behalf of our country. Indeed, students walk away with a new sense of awareness inspired by the educational exhibits throughout. We are constantly adding exhibits to enhance education.

**“Education will set you free.”**

- LT Michael P. Murphy



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER



We are pleased to welcome our newest staff member, Chuck DuVal. Chuck is a life member and plank owner. We were fortunate to recruit him for the museum. He is a navy veteran, who was recently honored at a Long Island Ducks Veterans game having been nominated by the museum staff. Chuck is an integral part of our team who not only has vast knowledge and is an avid historian of the Navy SEALs, but is also familiar with all of the technical aspects of our exhibits and operations of our building. A regular “Mr. Fix-it!” In case you haven’t guessed, Chuck is on the left in the photo.

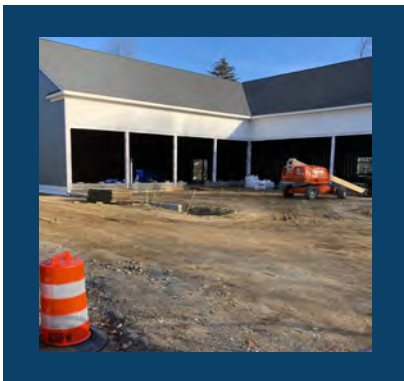
## TWO NEW EXHIBITS COMING...



In a few weeks, the “Winter Warfare” scene will be completed in our SEAL Training area. You’ve seen Navy SEALs in the extreme heat and dry desert. Now you will see a special operations exhibit in a bone chilling winter environment. Pictured: Sandy Bagdonas and crew member Brian of *Daniel DeMarco and Associates* beginning the exhibit installation.

With the new oculus device, visitors will also be able to experience the Virtual Skydiving exhibit. Test your skills as you “land” on an island.....or fall into the ocean!

## FLASHBACK



After all of the support segments were completed, it was time to build walls and a roof on the museum.. Soon, it began to look like the beautiful museum it is today.

The Museum is indeed built on a solid foundation of steel, cement and an ebony concrete floor. All services were donated by various contractors who will be recognized in future newsletter editions.

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank [Stephen Burke](#) of Driftpoint Media, for his unending support of the LT Michael P. Murphy Museum. Stephen was with us from the inception of the museum and has since been an enormous source of media and marketing expertise.

We would also like to thank [Chuck Cabrera](#) of the Sayville Inn and [Rich D’Andrea](#) of Raynor & D’Andrea Funeral Homes for their charitable contributions by organizing the annual “Sangria Salute” held every October. This year the event is scheduled for October 22nd.

We appreciate all who have made the museum a reality. We cannot possibly thank everyone at once but we plan to include as many of you as possible with each newsletter.

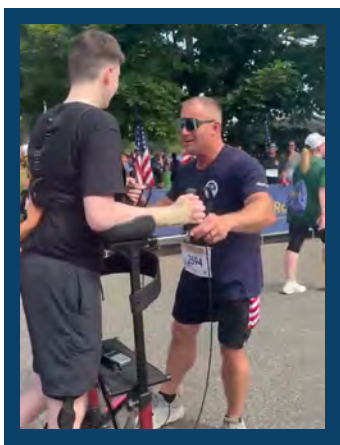
## Museum Friend, Finn Schiavone's Triumph



Not every battle is fought and won on the battlefields of war. About two years ago, Finn, who was an eighth grader, fell during wrestling practice which caused a severe head injury. At the time symptoms appeared mild but ten days later after his concussion, he started to have speech issues and began to stutter. His delayed symptoms continued. His vision was affected and he could not read. He lost his fine motor skills, could not write and he began having tremors and trouble walking. He struggled with short term memory. He spent his days going to doctors, in constant pain. School, band practice and

sports were replaced with MRI's, CT scans and EEG's. He spent that first summer doing in-patient rehabilitation. After 3 weeks, he came home in a wheelchair, learning to navigate his life from this new perspective. He underwent speech therapy, OT, PT, including a month of therapy in California. The one constant through it all has been his spirit, hard work, positive outlook and drive to never quit. Never give up.

We got to know Finn when his curiosity and desire to learn more about the Navy led him to an afternoon visit to our museum with his homeschool teacher. Finn is a huge fan and admirer of the Navy SEALs, perhaps feeling a connection and kindred spirit in their drive and willingness to accomplish the impossible. Early on, it was quite evident that Finn and Executive Director and Navy SEAL (Ret.) Chris Wyllie were destined to become close friends. Finn was named the "Civilian Honoree" at the *Murph Challenge* in May. Soon after, Finn in his wheelchair, assisted by Chris and his physiotherapist, participated in the Ronkonkoma Run/Walk. But there was a surprise to be had! Finn had been secretly improving. He walked the last 100 yards of the race to surprise his mom who was waiting at the finish line. It was a hard fought goal, accomplishment with Finn's "never quit, never give up" attitude that was witnessed by hundreds of teary eyed spectators at the run.



A few months later, Finn walked unassisted, into the museum to greet the staff. He and astonished Executive Director Wyllie shared a heart felt hug and posed for the photo on the right. According to Finn's mom Linda, it is amazing how a visit to the Navy SEAL museum last summer has made Finn a huge fan and admirer of the Navy SEALs and everything they represent. Finn's goal is to recover and one day become a Navy SEAL.



## DON'T MISS THE ARMY-NAVY GAME FUN!!

The Annual Army-Navy Game festivities will be held at The Portly Villager again this year. This a major fundraiser for the museum. It will be held on December 14th. Kick off is at 3 p.m. but patrons are advised to get there early and join the pregame fun! Thank you Marlene and Greg Keglias for organizing such an exciting event every year! The Portly Villager is located at 261 W. Main Street, Sayville, NY.

# K-9 Tribute Monument, Legacy Benches and Bricks

Our brick order will be going in very soon! If you are considering purchasing a brick, **now is the time!**

In addition to the legacy bricks and benches, patrons now have the opportunity to memorialize their own pets on bricks that will surround our new K-9 monument.



## SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED!



We recently moved our online operations from Rochester, NY to the museum in West Sayville. Most of our items at the museum store can now be purchased online. All of our books are signed by the authors. Additionally, if you would like

your copy of “SEAL of HONOR” personalized and signed by LT Murphy’s parents, you will be able to request it on your order. Think holidays! The gift of a signed, personalized “SEAL of HONOR” book, which is also signed by its author, Gary Williams, will be a gift not soon forgotten!

## GROUPS WELCOMED!

We provide a group rate for any group of ten or more.

**SCHOOL GROUPS** of up to **135** per day are welcome. We will create a package specific for grade level, including a guided tour, Adventure Ride and viewing of “Lone Survivor” or “Murph The Protector.” The LT Michael P. Murphy Navy SEAL Museum has partnered with the Arts in Education Programs of Nassau, Western Suffolk and Eastern Suffolk BOCES. For more information about booking a group trip please email us at [newsletter@murphsealmuseum.org](mailto:newsletter@murphsealmuseum.org).

## MUSEUM STAFF

**Christopher Wyllie**  
*Executive Director*

**Paul Racioppi**  
*Assistant Executive Director*

**Donna J. Donahue**  
*Museum Manager*

**Chuck DuVal**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**John D. Murphy**  
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*Vice President*

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