

Joint Press Release -

Troop Rewards presented with Debartolo Family Foundation's prestigious "Spirit of Humanity" award for 2016

TAMPA, FLORIDA – April 28, 2016 –The Debartolo Family Foundation hosted Troop Rewards, one of this years "Spirit of Humanity" award winners, at the family's new restaurant venture in Carrollwood called the Sacred Pepper to present the crystal award along with a check for \$25,000 to provide RnR Recovery to our deployed troops, and their families.

"To be recognized with this prestigious award from the Debartolo Family is such an amazing honor and it will help shine a light on our continuing commitment to support our deployed servicemen and women in our community." Said Troop Rewards Founder, Tom Burkett. "These families have sacrificed so much for our country, and in most cases have deployed multiple times in harms way. It is so rewarding to welcome these families home and see them re-bond with their loved ones at our events." Burkett added.

Mr. Burkett founded Troop Rewards in 2009 after getting a call from a private army soldier on a satellite phone, who was finishing a 13 month tour in Iraq, asking about booking Mr. Burkett's suite at the Sandpearl Resort & Spa. "Once he told me he was calling from a satellite phone in the Iraqi desert, I dropped the rate from \$600/night to \$0 for this planned honeymoon for his wife when he returned home from his deployment. I like to call it my "Wake Up Call" to do more to support our military families and that's how Troop Rewards was born." Burkett stated.

As part of Troop Rewards RnR recovery vacations, held every year on military holidays like Memorial and Veterans Day, the families enjoy a "Welcome Home Our Heroes" red-carpet reception on arrival day and a no-cost 5 day / 4 night stay at local luxury hotels, like the Sandpearl Resort & Spa, with family bonding activities like sunset cruises, smore's beach parties, and visits to local attractions during their stay.

About The Debartolo Family Foundation

The DeBartolo Family Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation created by the members of the Edward J. DeBartolo, Jr. family to benefit local communities. The Foundation annually awards scholarships to high school students, provides school supplies to local teachers, adopts Bay Area families during the holidays, provides grants to organizations with exceptional requirements and presents the Spirit of Humanity Award, honoring local non-profit, grass roots organizations.

About The Spirit of Humanity Award

The Spirit of Humanity Award was created to honor non-profit corporations that provide extraordinary assistance to Tampa Bay residents with special needs. Since April 2002, more than 40 organizations have been recognized for their contributions to the community.

About Troop Rewards

Troop Rewards is a Florida 501 (c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing RnR recovery vacations to U.S. Armed Forces who are deployed in Iraqi, Afghanistan and other hostile zones to aid in their reintegration and to re-bond with their loved ones. To learn more visit them at www.TroopRewards.org