## Four in Key Largo Honor Fallen Servicemen with a Unique Tribute

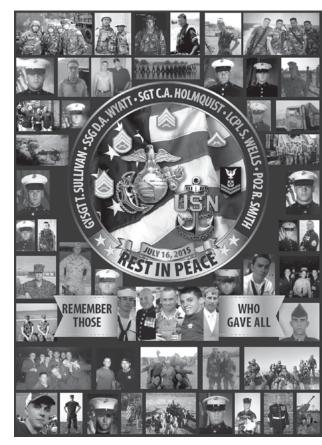
When a gunman armed with an AK-47 opened fire at a military recruiting center and then a Naval reserve center in Chattanooga, Tennessee on July 16, 2015, he left 4 servicemen dead, and wounded several others, one critically. He left many Americans wondering how this could have happened, outraged at the lack of security, and saddened by the loss of those who proudly served our country. The four Marines slaughtered that day were all combat veterans: Thomas Sullivan, of Hampden, Massachusetts; Squire "Skip" Wells, of Marietta, Georgia; David Wyatt, of Burke, North Carolina; and Carson Holmquist of Grantsburg, Wisconsin. U.S. Navy Petty Officer Randall Smith died three days later from injuries sustained that day.

Under the gunman's siege, the Marines went into combat mode, had everybody drop to the floor, and then "cleared the room" by having everyone go out the back, the official said. All seven people in the center survived, and reports indicate those Marines helped save lives.

All over the US, including here in the Keys, people expressed their outrage, sadness and sympathy for the families of the fallen men. Sean McMahon, a Marine veteran in Key



(L-R) Cheryl Conger of Keys Images, Sue Beal of Island Information Services, Sean McMahon of Key Largo, a Marine veteran, and Cathy Johnson of Printing Plus.



The original 24"x30" piece before framing.

Largo, said that he and his fellow former Marine vets were calling and texting each other, and posting to their Facebook site (which is private, for vets from conflicts ranging from Vietnam to the present).

The group was particularly upset by what they called the "whitewashing" of the incident in the press, and the inability of servicemen at recruiting centers to bear arms for defense. As the discussion evolved over a period of days, it was discovered that seven of the members of the group had served with "Gunny" Sullivan, five in Iraq. They call him the "cannon cocker."

After a lengthy discussion of what action to take, the group settled on a heartfelt and unique expression of sympathy to Sullivan's family, who owns an Irish pub in Boston. McMahon took the lead on the project, as the group gathered photos of themselves and their brothers in service, featuring as many of Gunny Sullivan as they could find.

Sean went to see Cathy Johnson, the manager of Printing Plus in Key Largo (at MM 99 in the Cedar Towers building), and explained what they wanted to do. Cathy's late husband was a veteran of the Vietnam war, and Cathy was eager to help. She called

Sue Beal of Island Information Services to help organize all the pictures into a cohesive piece and make it communicate the message of solidarity that the Marines wanted. A 24x30 inch poster was made showing the service logos, uniform insignias, the names of the fallen servicemen, their pictures, and a message of remembrance. Arranged around this were about 80 photos of the men sending the message, many taken with Gunny Sullivan.

Once the poster was made, it needed to be framed, and Cheryl Conger of Keys Images in Plaza 103 in Key Largo came forward as the last part of the Key Largo team. A beautiful mat and frame made the completed piece perfect. All three of the local businesses donated their services to the project.

The original 24"x30" piece will be shipped up to the Sullivan family in Boston by Sean, and additional pieces will be presented to key people and organizations. It is planned to give one to the American Legion in Key Largo, where everyone is encouraged to stop by and see it.

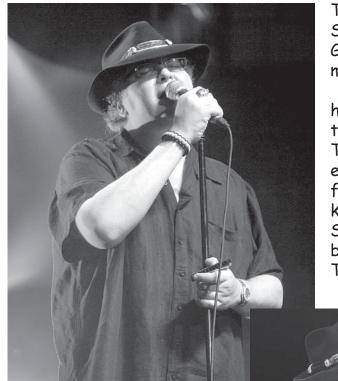
The project is another example of how our local community comes together to help others, and how we are proud to help.



# John Popper of Blues Traveler joins The Regs at Gilbert's, September 20th

If you turned on an FM radio in the mid to late 90s, you know this band. If you don't, then the rock you lived under must have been pretty big. Blues Traveler gained international fame in 1994 with the release of their 4th album, appropriately named "Four." They had already found success with the their first hit single "But Anyway" a few years earlier, then with the addition of chart busters like "Run Around" and "Hook" the band really hit their stride. Their breakthrough album went platinum SIX times.

David Letterman often referred to them as his favorite band, and they played on The Late Show more times than any other band. They played the 1995 season premiere of Saturday Night Live instead of Prince. They played on soundtracks for great 90s movies like Ace Ventura, Speed, Blues Brothers 2000, and Kingpin. They headlined festivals like Woodstock 94, and H.O.R.D.E.



Grammy-winning harmonica player and vocalist John Popper will join The Regs on Gilbert's stage on Sunday, September 20th. They even toured with The Rolling Stones. Oh yeah... they won a Grammy too, the highest honor for musicians.

John Popper is one of the best harmonica players in the world, and is the lead singer of Blues Traveler. The driving force behind Blues Traveler, John's harmonica playing is so fast that many guitar players can't keep up. His rendition of the Star Spangled Banner is unique, and it will be great to see Scotty Migone of The Regs go toe-to-toe with John.

You can see them all on Sunday,

September
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show starts
at 1pm, and
carpooling is
recommended, as
parking will
fill up quickly.



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Saturday, September 5:
Stone Mojo 1-5pm

<u>Special Saturday Night Show!</u> Mr Nice Guy 7-11pm Shane Duncan Band 12-5pm Mojo Scoundrels 7-11pm

Monday, September 7:
Rogue Theory 1-6pm

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1-6pm



THE REGS are playing and we have a special performer

JOHN POPPER
the lead singer and harmonica player for the famous band
BLUES TRAVELER

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