

Coconut Telegraph Spotlights A Local Hero Bringing Us a Higher Love - Helping Communities in Crisis

by Marilee Free

Courageous, spontaneous, relentless, resilient, and brave, are just some of the words that describe the volunteers helping with the Nomad Humanitarian Works mission. NHW is a non-profit organization of first responders who have handled relief efforts following disasters in Puerto Rico, Louisiana, and Texas. These 'natural disaster warriors' are specially trained in damage control from hurricanes, mudslides, and earthquakes. They are also trained in providing protection from looters, thieves, and scavengers, who steal from victims of calamities. They are boots-on-the-ground ready to repair, rebuild and restore what has been destroyed.

With respect to each team member's privacy and strict guidelines to equally honor every member on the team, this local man and charter fishing boat owner must remain nameless when mentioned in the media. His team name is 'Nomad 5 Alpha,' so we will use 'N5A.' He has experience in many specialized areas of law enforcement and EMS skills, with advanced learning in aviation, scuba, lifesaving, crisis help and disaster relief. With his loyal companion, a search and

rescue trained K-9 German shepherd, he recently returned from a mission to help the people of Lake Charles, Louisiana who were devastated by Hurricane Laura. He drove a truckload of supplies from the Key Largo Moose Lodge, Bayside Gourmet, and other donors, to the hardest-hit area. Hurricane Delta is now headed to the same battered area of Louisiana and he is readying himself for another deployment there.

Hurricane Laura hit the Louisiana coastline August 27th; the first of his comrades arrived on August 28th. N5A approached the storm-ravaged area at night on the 29th with no gas stations available and no power working, in complete darkness. He recalls dodging downed power lines, trees and debris; the challenges to reach the area were difficult. In the two weeks he was there, he had six flat truck tires, from driving around the storm-ravaged area. The tent he stayed in had no air conditioning, was flooded by rain, and was even run over by a volunteer! He gave his tent to a homeless person when his duty was over.

Working closely with local fire and police departments, the National Guard, FEMA, Red Cross, Louisiana Cajun Navy, and other organizations who help stage relief operations, the workers struggled with the intense heat of the Cajun bayou. Volunteers and victims were suffering with heat exhaustion and dehydration. When the long, hot day of seemingly never-ending tasks was done, N5A would fill a big bag with ice and hug it to try to keep cool enough to sleep. They worked up to



Helping Communities in Crisis continued

20 hours per day, providing people who had just lost everything 3,000+ meals daily. He had many assignments, including welfare checks, clearing trees from streets and houses, and putting tarps on damaged roofs. Families and friends of the storm victims would contact the authorities via phone calls and social media. Then the teams would go on search and rescue missions to save people and pets from horrific conditions.

"Bring Me a Higher Love," sung by Whitney Houston, was one of the songs N5A featured in his YouTube video, "Disaster Relief Mission - Hurricane Laura." An up-close and personal reflection of the trials and tribulations of handling the aftermath of this category 4

storm. His video shows how he reached his life-saving, life-changing epiphany, how he found his true purpose. His "higher love" is helping others with his expertise in crisis situations, also inspiring and mentoring others to get involved. His video captures the aftermath of the devastation and destruction Hurricane Laura left behind. You get an inside look at what really goes on after the storm with the many stages of relief assistance. It shows the true determination and dedication of those who volunteered, and the touching, heartfelt appreciation of the victims they assisted. youtu.be/HzXyfZwrAbc.

On behalf of the Coconut Telegraph, we would like to extend gratitude and congratulations to the Nomad



Humanitarian Works on a job well done helping those in need. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers and donors, who fight the good fight to restore and rebuild communities after natural disasters happen, THANK YOU!

Are you up for the challenge of helping those in crisis? Ready to live a life with purpose? You could find your 'higher love' by contacting Nomad Humanitarian Works Organization, go to www.facebook.com/nomadhumanitarianworks/

YOUR WATCH CENTER FOR

FL PANTHERS
MIAMI HEAT
MIAMI DOLPHINS

MM104 Bayside - Key Largo
305.453.9066
www.jjsBigChill.com

LET US HOST YOUR NEXT
Office Party, Birthday, or Event!

Largest NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Fireworks over the Bay! December 31st
Make your reservations now
305.453.9066