



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BRENDAN LOONEY TO RECEIVE 2014 SPIRIT OF TEWAARATON AWARD**

**WASHINGTON, January 13, 2014** – The Tewaaron Foundation has named former Navy lacrosse player Brendan Looney as the recipient of the 2014 Spirit of Tewaaron Award. The Looney family will be presented the award in his honor at the Tewaaron Award Ceremony May 29, 2014, at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

The Spirit of Tewaaron award is presented to an individual who has contributed to the sport of lacrosse in a way that reflects the spirit of the values and mission of The Tewaaron Award. Past recipients include Dick Edell, Diane Geppi-Aikens, Sid Jamieson, A.B. "Buzzy" Krongard, Roy Simmons Jr., Richie Moran, and Bob Scott.

"Brendan Looney defined his life through his dedication, leadership, courage, service and loyalty to his family, friends and country. He embodies the spirit of the game and the values of the Tewaaron Award," said Jeffrey Harvey, Chairman of The Tewaaron Foundation.

A three-sport standout at DeMatha Catholic High School, he earned letters in football, track, and baseball. Brendan played football for two years at Navy and then joined the lacrosse team. The first official lacrosse game he ever played in was the 2002 season opener. He was a sophomore. Brendan saw action in all contests in years 2002-2004 and in 2004, Navy recorded the most wins in Academy history and earned its highest ranking — No. 2 — for five consecutive weeks.

Also during his senior year, Brendan and brothers Billy and Stephen helped lead Navy to the NCAA Championship Game. In front of almost 50,000 fans, the three Looney brothers played side by side once more. It was Memorial Day 2004 and though Navy ultimately lost the game 13-14 to Syracuse, the Midshipmen won the hearts of lacrosse fans everywhere.

Looney graduated from the Naval Academy in 2004. He started his military career as a Naval Intelligence Officer and later transferred to Navy Special Warfare/Operations. Looney entered BUD/S School in March 2007, and graduated from SEAL Qualification Training as the "Honorman" for Class 265 on June 22, 2008. On July 12, just a few weeks later, Brendan married his wife Amy. He was deployed to Iraq two days later. During his fourth tour of duty, Looney, a member of SEAL Team THREE was one of nine U.S. service members to lose his life in a September 2010 helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

"In his life, Brendan Looney found the peace and quiet inside himself to inspire the people around him to reach their potential as leaders. Humble and capable, he was one of those rare individuals to which others naturally gravitated. His respect was highly valued by his peers, coaches and shipmates," said Richie Meade, former Navy lacrosse coach and current head coach of the U.S. Men's National Team and Furman University Lacrosse.

"Those who knew and loved Brendan are forever impacted by the example of his life. He gave much more to the world than he received and his memory continues to inspire individuals and teams to strive for excellence in their lives. We are grateful to The Tewaaron Foundation for recognizing Lt. Brendan

Looney for the Spirit Award. I am sure Brendan would want to share this award with those of his generation of Americans who have served on behalf of our citizens to defend our Nation's cause. We should remember and appreciate them always."

For more information on the Tewaaron Legends Award or to attend this exciting event, visit [Tewaaron.com](http://Tewaaron.com). Like and follow The Tewaaron Foundation at [facebook.com/tewaaron](https://facebook.com/tewaaron) and [twitter.com/tewaaron](https://twitter.com/tewaaron).

#### About The Tewaaron Foundation

The Tewaaron Award is recognized as the pre-eminent lacrosse award, annually honoring the top male and female college lacrosse player in the United States. The Award symbolizes lacrosse's centuries-old roots in Native American heritage and is endorsed by the Mohawk Nation Council of Elders and US Lacrosse. The Tewaaron Foundation is a non-profit that defines the mission and upholds the integrity of the The Tewaaron Award. Each year, the Tewaaron Award celebrates one of the six tribal nations of the Iroquois Confederacy – the Mohawk, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora – and presents two scholarships to students of Native American descent. To learn more about The Tewaaron Foundation, visit [www.tewaaron.com](http://www.tewaaron.com).

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