

DARREN MCBURNETT

Darren McBurnett (SEAL) Ret. is a combat veteran, professional photographer, author, ambassador, and motivational speaker.



- Holds a bachelor of arts degree from Purdue University where he was on the cycling and water polo teams and was captain of the rowing team
- Earned high school MVP and state honors in cross country, track, indoor track, and swimming. He's completed hundreds of road races, endurance and swimming events, marathons, and triathlons, to include the Boston Marathon and two Ironman triathlons
- Joined the Navy after college and started a 24-year SEAL career that included numerous deployments to combat zones in support of missions such as Operation Iraq Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Kosovo crisis, Liberia, and Operation Inherent Resolve
- SEAL platoon leader and senior enlisted advisor; trained and operated with SEAL Teams Two, Four, Eight, One, Three, and SDV (SEAL Delivery Vehicle)
- Developed military free fall course of instruction; deployed two years to the Middle East with a Joint Special Operations Task Force working with U.S. SOF in support of all U.S. engagements in the region; member of the U.S. Navy Parachute Team; instructor at the Naval Special Warfare Basic Underwater Demolition School
- Received 49 individual, unit, and campaign honors, including a Bronze Star

Over the years, McBurnett has become an accomplished speaker and motivator, presenting to companies and groups including CDW, AIG, Budweiser, Rite-Aid, Founders Brewing Company, Hilton Hotels, BMO, National Quarterback Club, Arbor Pharmaceuticals, and many others. He is also an award-winning photographer, his professional portfolio including work for NIKE, National Geographic, Fox and Friends, *Rolling Stone*, CBS SEAL Team, and the movie "Act of Valor." His work has appeared on everything from album covers to billboards to walls of Fortune 500 companies and is in the homes of Charlie Sheen, Kid Rock, Jim McMahon, John Rich, Brent Burns, Roger Clemens, and John Daly. He is proud to be an ambassador for Uncommon Grit Foundation, a nonprofit he started in 2020 to assist military, first responders, and their families—those who answer the call.

McBurnett is the author of *Uncommon Grit*, a 224-page fine art photography book of the journey through Navy SEAL BUD/S first phase training. It's a unique look at the military's toughest training from the point of view of someone who has lived it. McBurnett includes descriptions of evolutions along with his sense of humor, allowing the reader to laugh, cringe, gasp, and imagine themselves participating.

His message is not only motivational and inspiring on a corporate level, but also promotes individual and personal growth—how to navigate in an ever-changing adverse environment where critical decision-making and leadership skills are absolutely vital for success. His visually breathtaking multimedia presentation highlights the untapped potential and Never Quit intestinal drive that is the cornerstone of Navy SEAL success, and shares the defining characteristics that promote leadership and sacrifice in the SEAL Teams.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM MCBURNETT'S PRESENTATION

- High-energy delivery with a sense of humor
- Real stories from his SEAL career and how they apply to all teams
- Visually breathtaking presentation using his own photography and video
- Leadership points from his SEAL experience that motivate and inspire

CONTACT

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"McB is a highly decorated veteran and also a skilled storyteller. He is the narrator for his own real-life tales of honor and sacrifice that will stir a range of emotions in just about any audience."

Karl Schulz
CDW LLC

"A humble, patriotic American hero. An inspirational, experienced leader, and a truly gifted speaker. One of the most engaging and educational speakers I have ever had the privilege of hearing."

Brian Watkins
Clarion Partners

"His message of perseverance through his Navy SEAL training, accompanied by his amazing photos, was truly inspirational. The "life lessons" portion of the talk really hit the mark with our sales team."

Troy M. Petrick
Arbor Pharmaceuticals

"Darren is able to keep you on the edge of your seat as he inspires through the eyes and experiences of a Navy SEAL."

Curtis Brown
Aubri Brown Club, former NHL player

"Darren integrates his own personal experience as a Navy SEAL as well as his unfettered access to photograph SEAL training to give a unique and never-before look at what it takes to become a SEAL. His talent of speaking, photography, and patriotism is awe inspiring"

Robin Ventura
Chicago White Sox Manager, MLB Ret.

"He is the real deal, either in his dress uniform or in jeans and flip flops—his delivery is authentic and believable. Some speakers are just professional speakers with no real history of success. Darren is a real person, with real successes, and then he became a speaker."

Jonathan Smith
HGST, a Western Digital Company

"You want to get inspired, you want to get motivated—spend an hour with McB listening to his stories and seeing his photography and videos. His messages are the best we as a country have to offer."

Timothy P. Kisling
Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co.