

Darren McBurnett

Former US Navy SEAL, Professional Photographer, Author, Ambassador, and Motivational Speaker

Retired U.S. Navy SEAL Darren McBurnett is a combat veteran, world-renowned photographer, author, ambassador, and motivational speaker. McBurnett enjoyed a 24-year career with the U.S. Navy as a SEAL. His time with the Navy 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. A former SEAL platoon leader and senior enlisted advisor, he trained and operated with SEAL Teams Two, Four, Eight, One, Three, and SDV (SEAL Delivery Vehicle). He developed the military free fall course of instruction, deployed for 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, and was a member of the U.S. Navy Parachute Team and instructor at the Naval Special Warfare Basic Underwater Demolition School (BUD/S). Throughout the course of his career, McBurnett 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, Budweiser, Rite-Aid, Walk-Ons, Founders Brewing Company, Hilton Hotels, BMO, National Quarterback Club, Arbor Pharmaceuticals, and many others. He is also an award-winning photographer. His professional portfolio includes 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 Daley. He is proud to be an ambassador and executive speaker for Folds of Honor, where his photography has raised \$1 million and counting for families of operators who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation's freedom.

McBurnett is the author of the new book *Uncommon Grit*, a 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.