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Victim of a Phony SEAL Speaks Out

by

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I don't want to be known for this, being a victim of a phony SEAL. I understand why his many other victims are too ashamed, embarrassed and humiliated to admit publically what he's done to them. The stigma is, well, stigmatizing. I want to be known for my achievements, like those that got me into multiple volumes of WHO'S WHO (look me up!) and what I hope yet to achieve professionally, not for some phony talking his way into my heart, my life, my wallet and ultimately into bankruptcy and despair. But that's where I stand, and I stand in good company among his many talented victims, not people who you'd ever believe would be fooled by a phony. And thanks to the team at StolenValor.com, I may yet get his other victims organized for at least finally exposing him, if not the true justice he deserves.

One of the phony's other victims first contacted the team of StolenValor.com with an anonymous email in April of 2000 after my son contacted her to tell her that the phony who was courting her online was already married and that she was only one of many victims we had discovered. This woman, an attractive savvy New Yorker, had put over \$80,000 into him, and was she angry! I had seen the results of the money she'd put into him, thought he was solvent and legitimate, and when he proposed, was rushed into a marriage in 1999. Her email to the site that evolved into StolenValor.com resulted in the team contacting my parents (my Dad was an Army Colonel teaching at West Point) and me to verify her information.

StolenValor.com confirmed for us what we suspected by then, based on my son hiring a private investigator, that the person I married was a total fake and phony. We referred the StolenValor.com team to his ex wife #5 (yes I had unfortunately learned that I was wife #6 – didn't I mention I was in good company? Most of us have doctoral degrees!). Ex#5, a PhD in Neurobiology, confirmed his history, and among other things, a prior federal conviction for fraud. Then the StolenValor.com team also attempted to warn a new victim we had discovered, a retired Air Force Captain and PhD, that she was getting involved with a fake. She saw the house, furnishings, computers, and a tractor on a small farm I had bought before I knew I was being scammed plus the truck and horse trailer the other New York woman had paid for, and she bought his story hook line & sinker that there were “bad guys out there who were jealous of the things he had done who were trying to discredit him”. She went ahead and sunk \$200,000 into him before she woke up and contacted us again in 2002. In 2003 we discovered two more victims, one a bank manager in Virginia and the other a PhD in Psychology (who had been married to a Special Forces Ranger and worked for the Secret Service Intelligence Service) who had been taken for thousands of dollars. Not to mention what the previous wives put into him, or his former in laws – it's a bundle! One former wife (ex#3) threatened to sue him for fraud for \$30,000 unless he signed her divorce paper. Ex wife #5 lost her home and her credit. Two mothers-in-law independently gave him \$8,000 without their daughter's knowledge. Ex wife #1 got her jaw broken by him, her daughter by him lives on disability income. She is one of at least 5 children he has had.

But these are only a few among many others. This phony had gone bankrupt several times in different states. He fools men as well as women. One man, who happened to work for the Army Criminal Investigation Service in the Washington DC area, invested \$50,000 of his and his wife's savings in a dive shop, believing the phony was a real Navy SEAL. Another man gave the phony \$5,000 for a "life-saving operation for his son". Another fellow who the phony called his "best Navy buddy" gave him at least \$2,000. And the phony is registered for medical benefits with the Veteran's Administration. I hope the reader is getting the picture that this phony's victims are not the kind of people to easily be fooled, some are involved with law enforcement, and many are veterans themselves.

But the victim list keeps getting longer. He wiped out the life savings of a PhD in Math, at least \$200,000. He's gotten multiple investors to buy new horse trailers and trucks from Minnesota to Utah to Washington state. He tried to take another dentist in Arizona but she listened to my warnings and checked with StolenValor.com. He took an older couple for their car in a trailer park in Oregon. One of his current marks is a NASA scientist PhD, who blocked her email and changed her telephone like many of us did when he insisted it was "for our safety".

Unfortunately, while this phony is particularly "talented" he represents the tip of the iceberg. Why? Because there are thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands like him. Perhaps precisely because we who are fooled are too ashamed to admit it. Like the silence of a rape victim, we're afraid of the stigma of being victimized, or of being suddenly perceived as "stupid" enough to be fooled when we're supposed to be smart enough not to be taken. This is something that the team at StolenValor.com understands, and part of why they have been so important to me.

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Where my local DA refused to prosecute a case because I'd consented to marriage, StolenValor.com, understanding the pernicious nature of this fake, has prosecuted their own campaign to help expose him and stop hurting others as they do with all fakes. While his claims of "honor" and "service" give him and other fakes legitimacy in the heart of any loyal American, StolenValor.com knows the truth and has consistently presented it. Steve Waterman and SEAL Captain (Ret) Larry Bailey have been helping me for years now. Because of their involvement, I was able to get documentation from the right sources in the Navy confirming this person is no Navy SEAL. His service record – two years as a clerk in the Marines – was forwarded to my attorney through the Shantags. Retired Navy SEAL Captain (Ret) Larry Bailey even offered to go to court with me "to stare him down" and to stay under the protection of his home with his family when I was frightened of being near the phony while appearing for another victim's court case. And Michael Anderson, who until his untimely death, ran the website exposing fake veterans, almost daily sent me copies of emails he was sending to the fake to get him to admit he was a phony and stop his lying. Mike's emails gave me hope and encouragement that real men are still out there ready to stand up for what is right when others would rather turn their back, shrug their shoulders, and say, "well, too bad". Where the justice system has failed me completely, the team at StolenValor.com has been there every step of the way with support, encouragement, ideas, and concern. The understanding of the evil that phony fakes SEALs and veterans are wreaking on our society is of a magnitude that others refuse to see. Add up the figures I quoted above and figure this is only one guy who is a fake, how much are all the rest of them costing us? Eleven million people are now claiming to be Vietnam veterans but only

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three million served in that war! What about the Gulf War veterans and now the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans?

StolenValor.com didn't cost me a penny, unlike all the tens of thousands I spent on attorneys and private investigators. These honorable men and women volunteer their time to stop phonies and help their victims, like me. I am not only indebted for their help and support, I'm amazed at their willingness to go above and beyond, and their sense of duty to those fallen veterans whose honor most of all is being besmirched by the fakes. I am honored that they've taken their time to care enough for their fallen comrades in arms to help my fellow victims and me stand up to phonies and fakes. I sincerely hope that the StolenValor.com team will get the exposure that they deserve, that the word will get out that they can verify who's telling the truth, and that all it costs is a click of a mouse.

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