

For immediate release

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## **DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV), NATIONAL COMMANDER HELPS UNVEIL SPECIALIZED DIVE BOAT**

Monterey, California, September 28th, 2016 - Monterey Bay Veterans, Inc (MBV) gave the first public showing of its specialized SCUBA diving vessel "Freedom" this past week. A dedication ceremony on Tuesday was preceded with two dives by Dave Riley, National Commander of the DAV. Commander Riley is a quad amputee Coast Guard veteran. His dives from the Freedom, a boat specifically designed for physically challenged divers, were facilitated by the one of a kind "Lift to Freedom" (L2F) submersible dive platform. The vessel was dedicated into service on Tuesday afternoon in Monterey during a ceremony attended by local, state and national dignitaries.

It was an earlier dive by Commander Riley that inspired marine engineer Chris DeLucchi to design the L2F system, specifically for the Monterey Bay Veterans converted 52 foot vessel "Freedom". The L2F is able to submerge divers to a depth of four feet to begin their dive, then safely and comfortably return them to deck level after their dive experience. This system is designed to accommodate all levels of challenged individuals and includes a submersible wheel chair system for the platform.

The L2F, along with other extensive modifications to Freedom and partnership with Deganan Divers under the umbrella "Freedom Dive Program", furthers the MBV goal to accommodate limitations and assist challenged individuals to maximize their strengths.

MBV has been providing recreational rehabilitation services, including ocean fishing and other outdoor recreational access, for nearly 30 years. The organization began with focus on disabled veterans and that remains key to our efforts. However, the programs are available to all challenged individuals.

For more information contact: Bill Reisig, Monterey Bay Veterans, President at points above.

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