

## TCPalm: Mahoney's first bill gets SEAL of approval in Fort Pierce

By Tyler Treadway

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FORT PIERCE &mdash; Now everyone walking in the front door of the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum will know they've entered the official national museum of Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

On Tuesday afternoon, U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney gave museum director Michael Howard a framed copy of the legislation giving the museum national status.

When he was asked for help by museum organizers a year ago, Mahoney said, "it made all the sense in the world to see if we could get national designation for this wonderful museum."

The designation, Howard said, will help the museum attract corporate, state and federal grants that can be used on a proposed \$3.5 million project to double the size of the 4,000-square-foot structure and build an adjacent SEALs memorial.

Fort Pierce is considered the birthplace of the SEALs because the Navy trained forces on Hutchinson and North Hutchinson islands in underwater and combat demolition during World War II.

The museum at 3300 N. State Road A1A, just south of Pepper Beach Park, is dedicated to preserving the history of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors, including the Underwater Demolition Teams, Naval Combat Demolition Units, Office of Strategic Services Maritime Units and Amphibious Scouts and Raiders.

Mahoney, a first-term Democratic congressman from Palm Beach Gardens, said another framed copy will adorn his office because it's the first bill he's sponsored that became law.

See U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney present a copy of the legislation designating the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum as the country's official SEAL museum to Michael Howard, the facility director.

