

▶▶ celebrating leaders

Written by **Brian Gowdy**
Photography by **Abby Santurbane** of **Santurbane Photography**



"Sean is allergic to money!" Those words, spoken by his wife and partner in business, Bobbi Kae Warner, encapsulate Sean not as a man of business, but as a man of giving. As a real estate agent and the Owner/Broker of The Warner Group, there is plenty of cash flowing in but Sean is last to pocket it for himself. Instead, he gives it back to his agents, back to his city, and back to his community.

Growing up, Sean's family never had a lot of money. His mother lived a free-spirited, wandering lifestyle. She raised Sean out of her car until he was old enough to start school. Their first home was a vacation rental in Massachusetts, meaning they had to move every few months. At ten years old, they moved to Key West, trading the seasonal rental homes for a mobile home park. When he turned fourteen, he was reunited with his dad who had spent the majority of Sean's life in prison. The two spent their father-son bonding time working on cars and sailboats together.

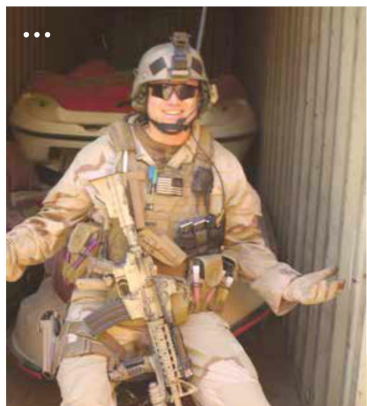
After graduating Key West High School in 1990, Sean wanted to get out of Key West, so he joined the Army.

His first duty station was in Korea. In '93, he joined US Army Special Forces, tasked with narcotic operations (the very crime his father was arrested for as a boy) in Central and South America. He worked as a Ranger and a Combat Diver, enjoying his time with the locals and culture. He even learned to speak Spanish!

In 2001, Sean became a Military Intelligence Officer and was relocated to Colorado. While he fell in love with our state, he missed being in the Special Forces and rejoined as an Officer in '06, serving three tours in Iraq. After Iraq, he worked with US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), supporting law enforcement with Department of Defense assets until his retirement from the military in 2013.

After twenty-three years in the Army, Sean was searching for direction. He went on to complete two full Ironman triathlons, one extreme triathlon, and earned his MBA from UCCS because he was bored.

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In 2015, he landed in real estate. For some, real estate can be a daunting industry but in Sean's own words, "after being in the Army, nothing scares me anymore."

If you ask Sean, he will tell you he built his business by "failing his way to success." In truth, he had several connections from the military that were looking to PCS and he simply grew his network from there. Something unique about Sean is that he strives to be the opposite of a "salesy Realtor," more interested in helping them increase their net value rather than his own.

One of Sean's mentors in the industry was Baylee Carter. He hung his license out of Red Rock Realty until they rebranded under Coldwell Banker. Wanting to remain the local, boutique firm, Sean started The Warner Group.

The Warner Group launched in 2018 and to this day they have never actively recruited agents. The agents they have were simply attracted to Sean's values as a leader. In turn, Sean is very picky about the agents they let in. "All our agents are in the business for the right reasons. They must be willing to put their clients before themselves. Everything else can be taught, but if those values aren't in place, they aren't a good fit for the Warner Group," he says.

Granted that he's "allergic to money," Sean finds his fulfillment in places other than his paycheck. Obviously he loves helping put his clients in their dream home but what's just as special is offering a career-opportunity to change the lives of his real estate agents.

Sean and everyone at The Warner Group is very engaged with the community. Sean has been a Boy Scouts leader; he has served as the Chair for UpaDowna, an organization dedicated to helping people get outdoors; he sponsored the Pikes Peak Apex mountain bike challenge on Pikes Peak; he sponsors

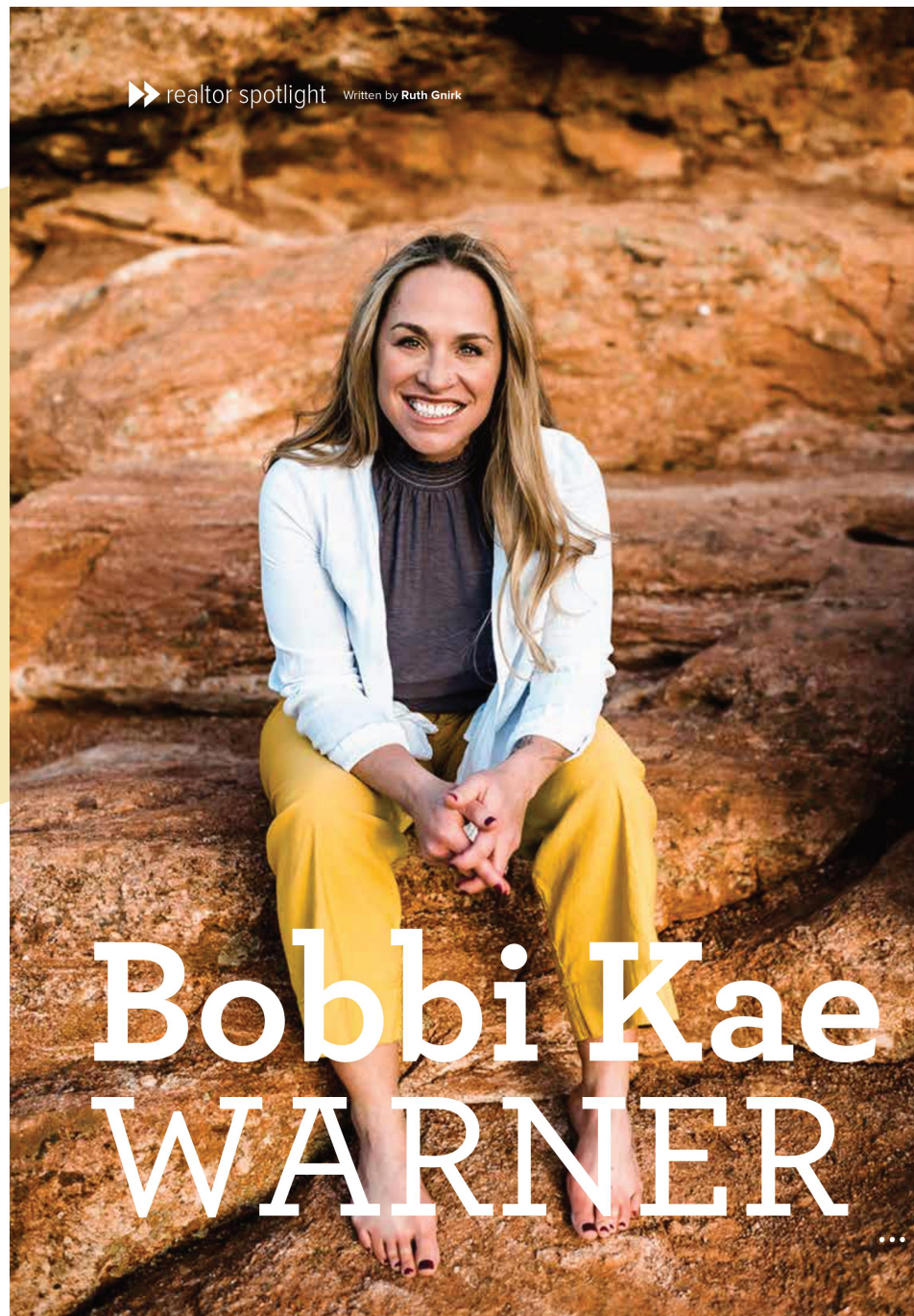


every honor graduate for the Special Forces Qualification Course with a lifetime membership to the Special Forces Association; he donated to help produce the designs for the US Army Special Forces Museum; and this September he will be sponsoring the National Special Forces convention which will bring 1,000 Green Berets to Colorado Springs.

Outside real estate, Sean loves anything outdoors: camping, jeeping, mountain biking, mountain climbing, and scuba diving. And of course he loves spending time with his amazing wife, Bobbi Warner, and family: Charlotte Warner-Mebly, Michael Warner, Lance Warner, Kaiya Watt, and Skyler Watt.

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realtor spotlight Written by Ruth Gnirk



Bobbi Kae WARNER

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Faith is the Victory

Bobbi Kae Warner has always been athletic. She may have inherited some of that from her father, once recognized as a “Best in Nation” snowmobile racer, *and* her paternal grandfather who was ranked ninth. Some of her dad’s need for speed had led to unhealthy habits that could have ruined his life, but God changed him drastically, and he has been serving others as a South Dakota chiropractor for 36 years.

The need for speed and adrenaline was in Bobbi’s blood, too. She played team sports in school and was in the marching band, and enjoyed skiing, snowboarding, rock climbing, and biking as well. She started dabbling in local BMX bike races in high school, and after graduation she came to Colorado to pursue her love for BMX. She competed as an amateur for a year, then as a BMX pro for a year and a half before she transitioned into professional high-risk gravity mountain bike racing for the next 13 years.

Bobbi became a Registered Nurse and enjoyed the rush and challenge of working in the Emergency Room. She stayed busy as a wife and mother, and continued to compete in professional dual slalom, mountain cross, and downhill events on her days off.



Pressures in life were getting more intense in 2014, but she prayed and trusted God for victory.

While working the overnight shift on December 31, 2014, Bobbi Kae took care of a young heroin addict who had the Scripture reference “Joshua 1:9” tattooed on his abdomen. As she drove home January 1, 2015, she replayed their conversation in her mind. She prayed for the patient and for her family, especially her daughters, ages two and four. Suddenly Bobbi was flying through the air!

She had been t-boned by a man who was a little over the legal limit after his New Year’s Eve celebration. He later admitted that he intentionally ran a red light because he was late for work, but he didn’t think anyone else was on the road. When she woke, Bobbi had glass in her eyes and couldn’t see where she was. She had no clue that she had suffered a traumatic brain injury, or that she had a pelvis so shattered that surgery was too risky. All she knew was she was filled with peace!

She was reminded that Joshua 1:9 says, *Be strong and courageous...Don't be afraid or dismayed; God is with you.* Bobbi underwent concussion therapy right after the accident. In time, she would log hundreds of hours of formal physical therapy and thousands of hours of therapy at home. A Christian counselor began teaching her healthy ways to deal with PTSD and life, and she became more aware of God’s Presence, peace, and wisdom.

“It was very important to me that the driver, who turned 30 a few days after the accident, not let his poor decisions be a negative defining force in his life,” shared Bobbi Kae. “Growing up, my parents modeled unconditional love, and their faith was alive. That was how I wanted to live, too. The driver and I keep in touch a couple of times a year. I am so grateful that God had extra angels in my car that day!”

After healing for six months, Bobbi started working as an ER nurse again, but the job was stressful for her body, mind, and emotions. She found a job she really loved, caring for clients after surgery at an orthopedic facility. However, when they started changing the scheduling it kept Bobbi Kae from caring for the needs of her daughters. She started working as a remote nurse case manager for Hartford Insurance.

Throughout the changes in life and work, there were several coworkers and friends who impacted Bobbi Kae. One of those friends was Sean, a single father who had retired from special forces. Their families had memberships at the same pool for years, but they didn’t officially meet until the

fall of 2017. Sean had competed in an extreme Ironman event called Alaskanman, and his courage and kindness inspired Bobbi Kae.

After earning his Master’s degree, Sean had fallen into real estate. He soon became Bobbi’s real estate mentor and friend. Sean invited Bobbi Kae to tag along while he was conducting video showings for his military clients overseas. He taught her about contracts and about caring for the community.

In the fall of 2018, Sean started *The Warner Group*, helping buyers and sellers, and providing property management. Many of their clients are military, and special forces. Bobbi earned her license as a REALTOR® and joined the team. *The Savage Group* and other team members were added organically.

November 2019, just four and a half years after her accident, Bobbi was a contestant in an Ironman competition in Cozumel. Three months later, on February 2, 2020, Sean and Bobbi were married in St. John. They love the life they are creating together, and how they are helping clients and team members find courage and make lives for themselves, too.

“Sean was exactly what I needed, at exactly the right time,” Bobbi reflected. “It took me a long time to get out from under the control of my first husband, who had chemical and physiological issues. I had to heal. Sean showed me, and continues to show me, how much he treasures me by how he treats me.”

Although Bobbi has had several surgeries since the accident, she still rides and dirt jumps, for fun, and Sean and her daughters ride too. Kaiya, age 12, loves cross country riding, while Skyler, age 10, loves pump track and dirt jumps, and also enjoys skateboarding. Sean’s youngest son Lance was just recently inducted into the Eagle Scouts, and his older son Michael, a former Eagle Scout, is a chef in New York City. Sean’s daughter Charlotte lives in Norway, and she and Bobbi have enjoyed skydiving together.

This spring the Warners had another amazing and uplifting family reunion with Bobbi’s parents, three siblings, and their families. This summer, Bobbi Kae will be serving as a counselor and instructor at Camp Royal, a Christian extreme sports camp that was started by her friend (weareroyal.com). The camp draws the courageous crowd, so her daughters will be attending also! Skyler will focus on skateboarding skills one week, and Kaiya will be refining her mountain biking prowess the next.

“God has been a huge part of my life,” shared Bobbi Kae, “and He has been faithful through **all** of it. He helps me be the wife, mother, and REALTOR® that He created me to be. He is my soul-sufficiency. The tattoos on my left arm remind me of that. They are based on Psalm 121:1-2, *‘I lift up my eyes to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth!’*”