

Air Force Families Forever

Ensuring that the families of our fallen Airmen are never forgotten by providing immediate and long-term compassionate support



Spring 2015

Air Force Family Support Network

Issue 18

21st annual TAPS National Military Survivor Seminar/Good Grief Camp

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS, is sponsoring the 21st Annual TAPS National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors in Arlington, Virginia, May 21 to 25.

Since 1995, TAPS has welcomed all who are grieving the loss of a loved one who died while serving, providing a full weekend of events for adults and children alike. In Washington, attendees are surrounded by the monuments of the nation that honor the service and sacrifice of loved ones and remind everyone that "freedom is not free."

TAPS Good Grief Camp for children and teens provides a safe and supportive atmosphere to conduct activities and opportunities to learn coping skills, establish and identify support systems and create awareness that they are not alone in the grief of their loved one. Children and teens meet other people their own age to share and learn together.

TAPS has assisted more than 50,000 surviving family members, casualty assistance officers, chaplains, and others supporting bereaved military families.

Additionally, TAPS is committed to providing compassionate care to anyone who is grieving the death of someone who died while serving in the military, regardless of the circumstance of death, relationship to the deceased, or geography.

Services are provided free of charge. Registration for the seminar and camp are now open and space is limited. Go to www.taps.org and click on the "Survivor Events" tab on the left side.



Attendees of the 21st Annual TAPS National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors in Arlington, Virginia, May 21 to 25 will tour the monuments that honor the service and sacrifice of loved ones and remind everyone that "freedom is not free." (Courtesy photo)



TAPS Good Grief Camp for children and teens provides a safe and supportive atmosphere to conduct activities and opportunities to learn coping skills, establish and identify support systems and create awareness that they are not alone in the grief of their loved one. Children and teens meet others of their own age group to share and learn, together. (Courtesy photo)

Attention AFFSN Facebook page users

The legacy Air Force Families Forever Facebook page has been replaced.

The new page was activated Dec. 1, 2014.

Please click on the Facebook icon to gain access.



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

HEROES RETREAT: The Survivors of Heroes Retreat at Holbrook Farms is scheduled for July 16th-20th, 2015. Holbrook Farms is located near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, on beautiful lakeside property. This year's retreat will host 12 women, from any branch of service. The Survivors of Heroes Retreat is unique because of the setting and the more personal environment. Attendees will enjoy lots of time on the lake, paddle boarding, jet skiing, tubing, and just relaxing and getting to know each other. A \$100 refundable deposit is required at the time of registration, but there is no other cost to women who attend. In the future we hope to include widowers, children, and other family members also! More information can be found here:

<http://www.holbrookfarmsmn.com> , or questions can be sent to Holbrook Farms at holbrookfarmsmn@gmail.com <<mailto:holbrookfarmsmn@gmail.com?subject=Request%20Info>> .

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES: The Presidential Memorial Certificate is a gold embossed certificate signed by the current president in memory of any honorably discharged deceased veteran. This includes any service member who died while serving honorably. The certificate bears the name of the veteran along with an inscription expressing the nation's gratitude and recognition of the loved one's service in the United States Armed Forces. This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent presidents. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs administers the presidential certificate program through the National Cemetery Administration. Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. Eligible recipients may apply through U.S. mail, toll-free fax, or in person at any VA Regional Office. A request form (VA Form 40-0247) is available on the National Cemetery Administration website at www.cem.va.gov, or the recipient may simply write a signed request, including the name of the deceased veteran (DO NOT include nickname, military rank, or civilian title), name and address of the person requesting the certificate, and the number of certificates being requested. A copy of the deceased veteran's military discharge document along with a copy of the death certificate must be provided. The DD Form 1300, Report of Casualty, would fulfill the documentation requirements. Send requests and supporting documentation by mail to Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C), 5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-3903, or by toll-free fax at 800-455-7143.



NEWS YOU CAN USE (cont.):

SURVIVOR RESOURCE KITS: In partnership with the USO, TAPS has made available, at no cost, a resource kit for all survivors. The TAPS Survivor Resource Kit contains vital information and special items, designed to provide personal resources, as well as items of comfort and care for persons on their grief journey.



VET CENTERS: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers bereavement counseling to parents, siblings, spouses and children of Armed Forces personnel who died in service of their country. Also eligible are family members of reservists and National Guardsmen who died on duty. Counseling is provided at Vet Centers located in families' communities. There is no cost for VA bereavement counseling. Information about the Vet Centers is available at: www.vetcenter.va.gov/Bereavement_Counseling.asp, or email vetcenter.bereavement@va.gov



Resources

Remember, you are never alone! There are a number of agencies available to assist and support you as you navigate onward without your loved one. Several resources are listed below:

Benefit Information:

- [Death and Burial Benefits](#)
- [Defense Finance and Accounting](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents](#)
- [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#)
- [National Association for Uniformed Services \(NAUS\)](#)
- [Survivor Benefits](#)

Grief Links:

- [AirCraft Casualty Emotional Support Services \(ACCESS\)](#)
- [Center for Loss and Life Transitions](#)
- [The Compassionate Friends](#)
- [The Dougy Center for Grieving Children & Families](#)
- [Grief Inc.](#)
- [GriefNet: bereavement, grief resources](#)
- [Hospice Foundation of America](#)
- [Vets 4 Warriors](#)

Military Organization Links/ Interest:

- [The American Legion](#)
- [The American Widow Project](#)
- [American Gold Star Mothers](#)
- [Army Times](#)
- [Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association](#)
- [Coalition for Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans](#)
- [Goldstar Wives of America, Inc.](#)
- [Got Your Back Network](#)
- [Military.com](#)
- [Military Connection](#)
- [National Guard Association](#)
- [Society of Military Widows](#)
- [Sons and Daughters in Touch](#)

General Information Links:

- [Give An Hour](#)
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