



Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

**In Honor of all who Served and Died
May 2024**

Caring for the Families of America's Fallen Heroes

800.959.TAPS(8277)
@TAPsorg

202.588.TAPS (8277)
TAPS.org



TAPS Mission

TAPS is the national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources to *all those* grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one.

TAPS Vision

TAPS honors our military men and women
by caring for *all those* they loved and left behind.





TAPS VALUES

HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE: We cherish the life of our fallen heroes and celebrate military survivors as the living legacies of their loved ones' service and sacrifice.

EMPOWERMENT: We empower survivors with healthy coping tools, resources, and opportunities to connect in the comfort of their home, their community, their region, and the nation to grow with their grief.

CONNECTION: We connect all those grieving a military death 24/7 to a nationwide network of peer based emotional survivor support and critical casework assistance.

EDUCATION: We inform and educate using research-informed best practices in bereavement and trauma care for survivors and advocate on behalf of survivors with policy and legislative priorities.

CREATING COMMUNITY: We build community with survivors to provide comprehensive comfort, care, and resources where they live, when they need it, and in a manner comfortable for them.



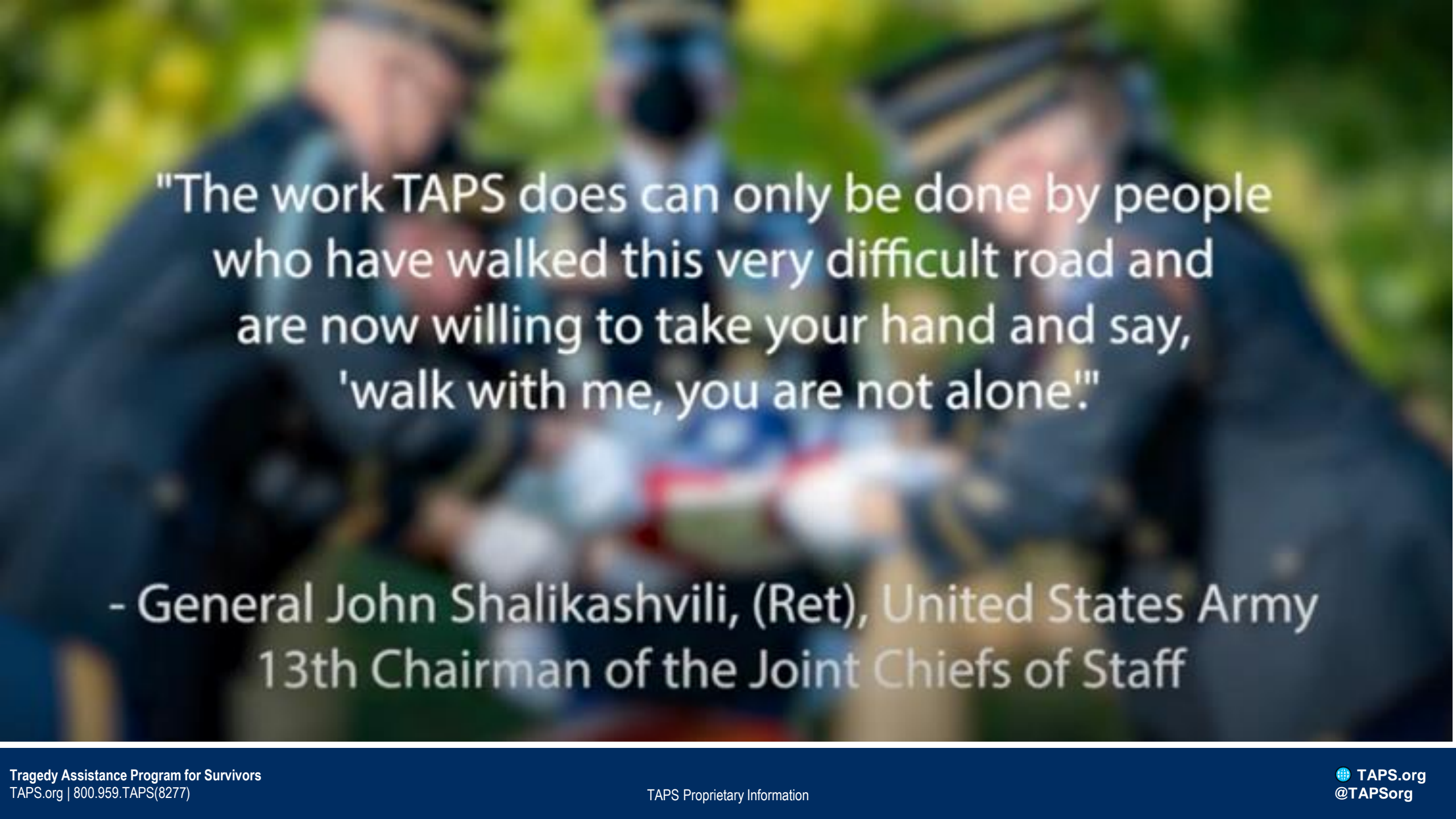


TAPS HONORS ALL



**TAPS PROVIDES SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR ALL SURVIVORS
REGARDLESS OF THE DUTY STATUS AT THE TIME OF DEATH**

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE DUTY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE ACTIVE DUTY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RETIRED TO INCLUDE
RETIRED FROM THE
GUARD AND RESERVE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TITLE 10 STATUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NON-DUTY STATUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY FAMILY
GRIEVING A CIVILIAN
FAMILY MEMBER LOSS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TITLE 32 STATUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESERVES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE BUDDY |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE GUARD RESERVE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VETERAN TO
INCLUDE VETERAN
OF THE GUARD
AND RESERVE | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TECHNICIAN | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRADITIONAL GUARD | | |



"The work TAPS does can only be done by people who have walked this very difficult road and are now willing to take your hand and say, 'walk with me, you are not alone!'"

- General John Shalikashvili, (Ret), United States Army
13th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



TAPS CORE SERVICES

Grief doesn't follow a timeline. TAPS provides 24/7 care, forever.

24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline

TAPS is the only national nonprofit organization ready with a 24/7 live-answer helpline staffed by trained professionals specializing in grief and trauma support.

Peer Based Emotional Support

As the national nonprofit organization providing comfort, care, compassion, and connections with resources, TAPS connects survivors living with grief and trauma with trained peers who share a similar experience of grief and loss, fostering connectedness and belonging.

Community Based Care

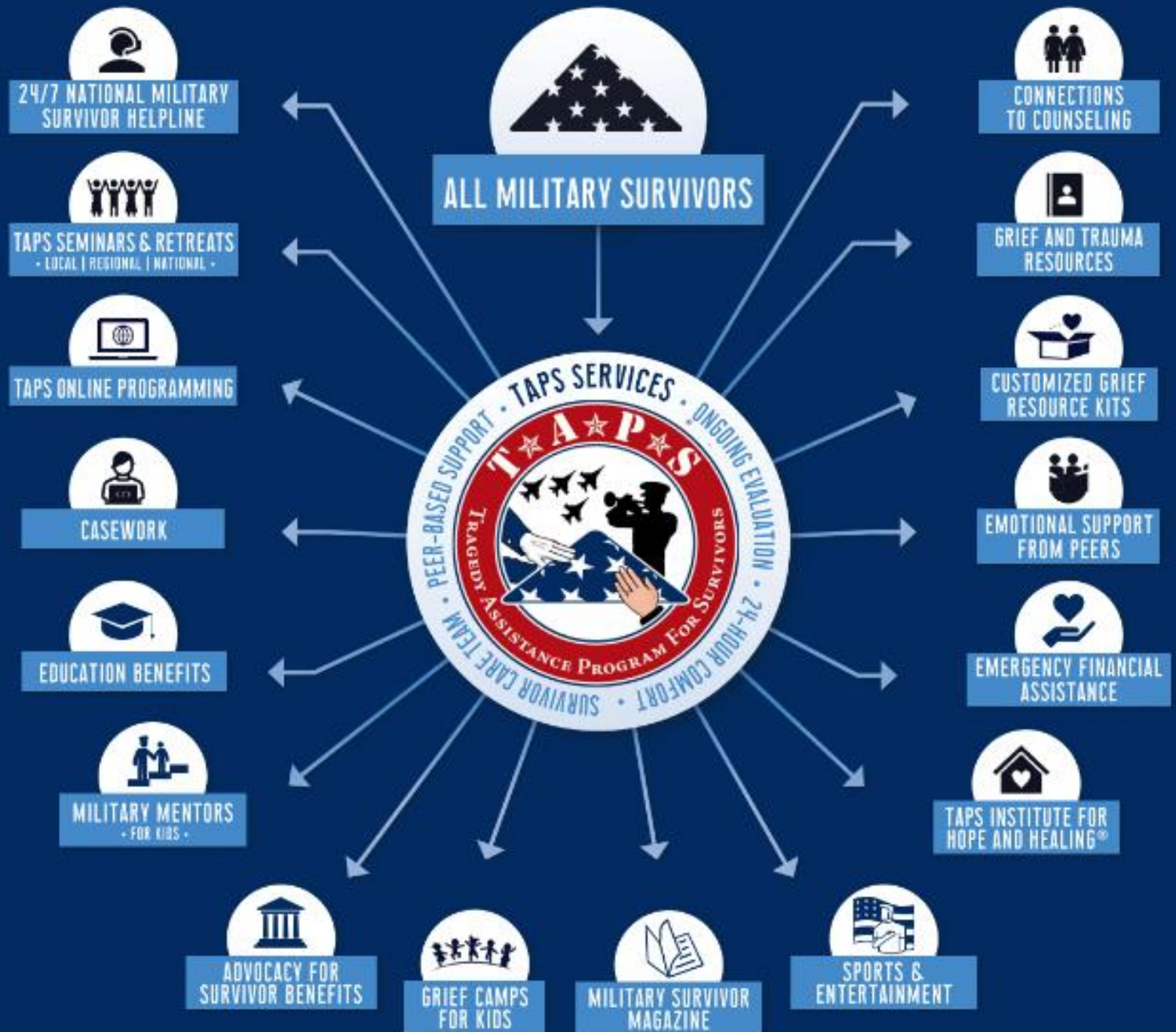
TAPS Community-Based Care creates a supportive network of local grief support groups and mental health professionals who offer compassionate assistance and services to grieving military survivors and families in their community.

Casework

TAPS Casework provides practical support to military survivors and families living with grief, helping them navigate administrative processes and access emergency and critical financial resources.

TAPS MISSION TAPS is the national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources for all those grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one.

TAPS VISION TAPS honors our military and veteran service members by caring for all those they loved and left behind.





2023 Average of 26 New Survivors Each Day

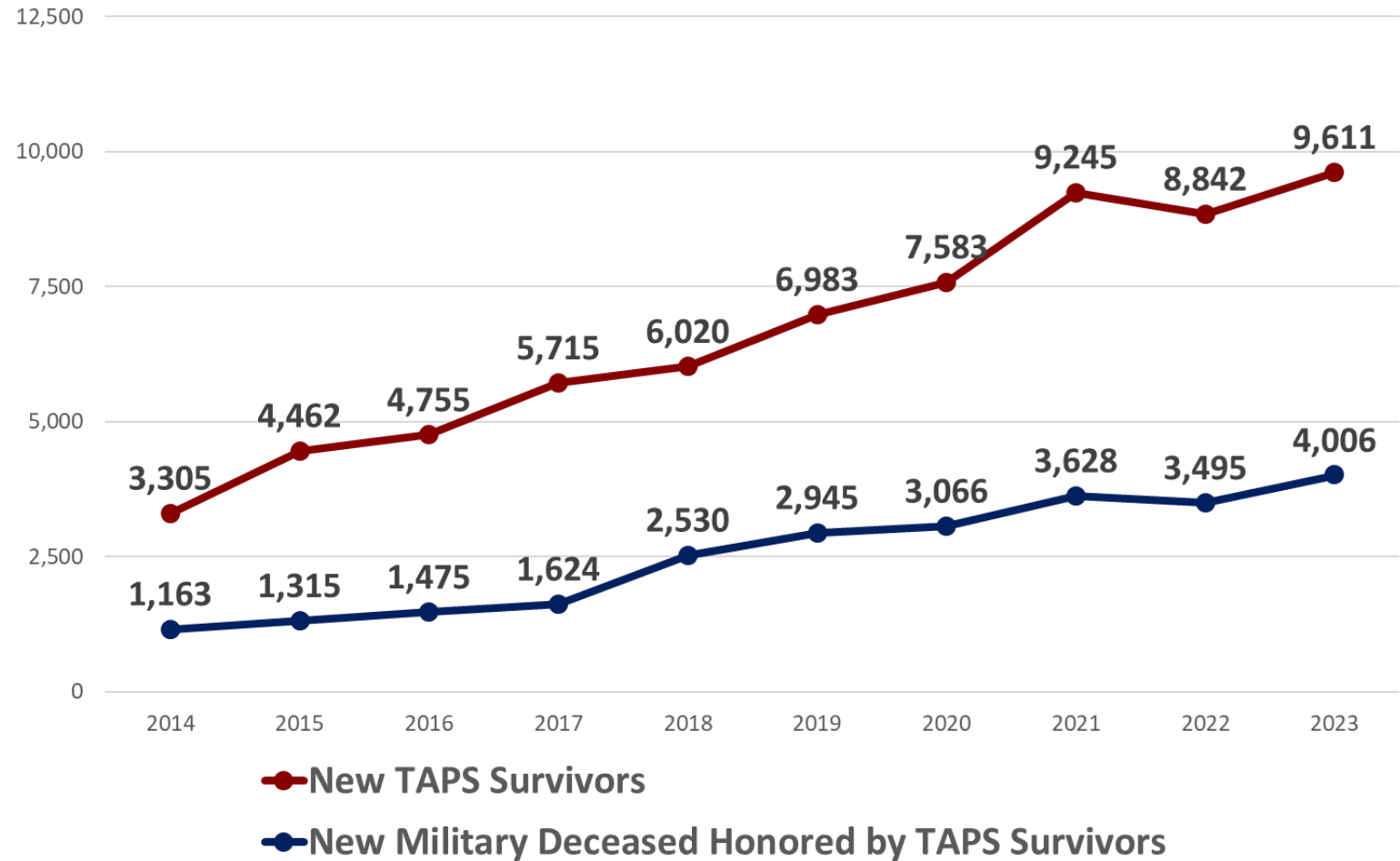
67% of survivors connected within the first year (365 days) of their loss

11% of survivors connected 1-3 years post-loss

11% of survivors connected 4-9 years post-loss

11% of survivors connected 10+ years post-loss

2023 New Survivors and Military Deceased Connecting with TAPS



8% of all new 2023 survivors have an unknown Date of Death



TAPS SUPPORTS EVERYONE

Children



25% Military loss was their parent
*over or under the age of 18

Parents



26% Military loss was their child

Partners



22% Husbands, Wives, Fiancées, Fiancé's, Significant Others, Partners, Ex-Spouses

Loved Ones



17% Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Friends, In-Laws, and Battle Buddies
*over or under the age of 18

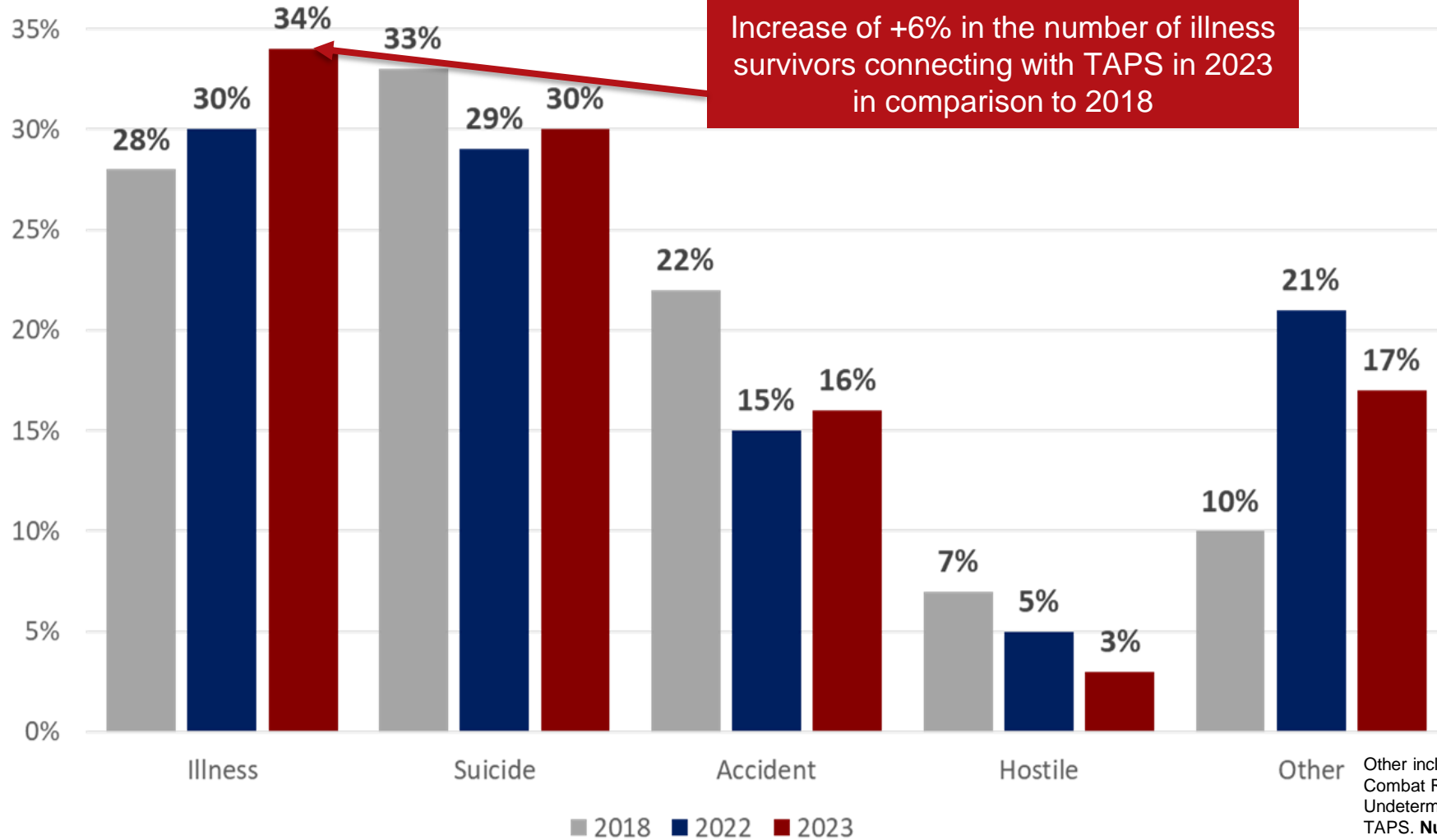
Siblings



10% Brothers, Sisters, Step-Siblings, Half-Siblings
*over or under the age of 18



TRENDS IN MANNER OF DEATH



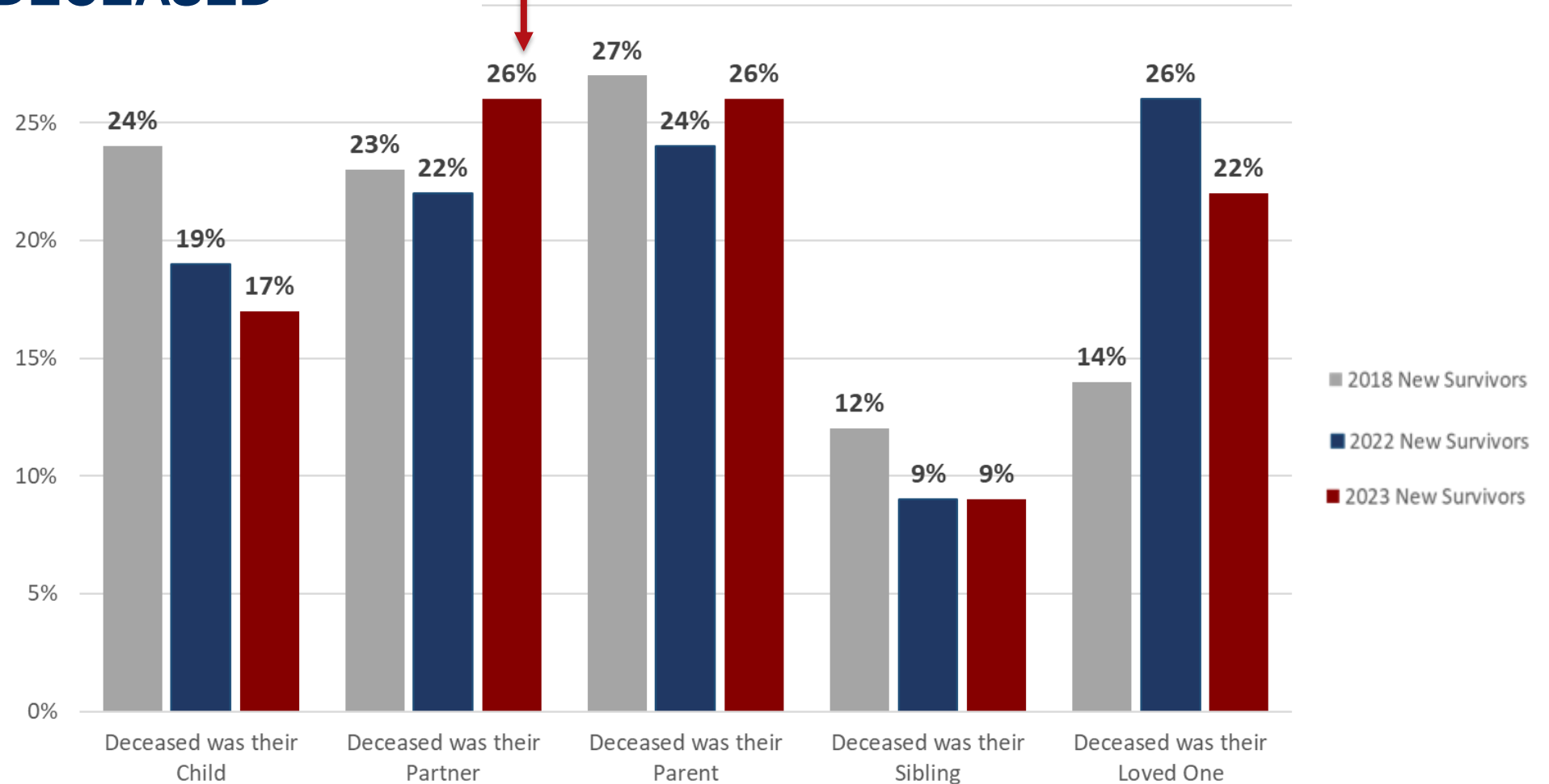
Increase of +6% in the number of illness survivors connecting with TAPS in 2023 in comparison to 2018

Other includes Friendly Fire, Homicide, Non-Combat Related Incidents, Non-Hostile, Undetermined, or Unknown at time of intake with TAPS. Numbers will vary upon connection with military survivors to identify cause of death



NEW SURVIVORS BY RELATIONSHIP TO THE DECEASED

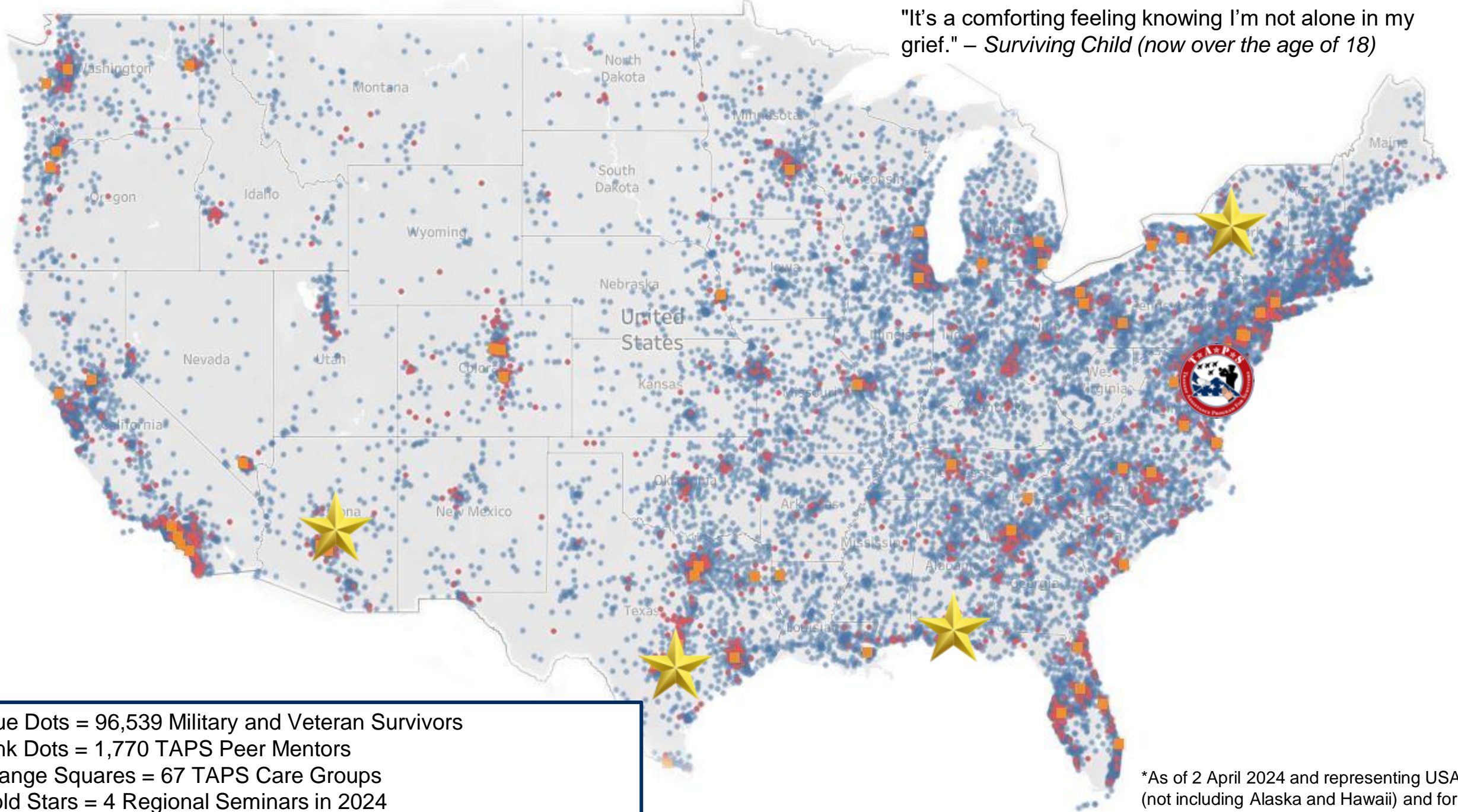
In 2023, We had the highest overall percentage (and highest number) of partners connect with TAPS since 2008.



Spouses, Fiancé's, Significant Others, Partners, Ex-Spouses

Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Friends, In-Laws, Battle Buddies

"It's a comforting feeling knowing I'm not alone in my grief." – *Surviving Child (now over the age of 18)*



Blue Dots = 96,539 Military and Veteran Survivors
Pink Dots = 1,770 TAPS Peer Mentors
Orange Squares = 67 TAPS Care Groups
Gold Stars = 4 Regional Seminars in 2024
TAPS Round Logo = 1 National Seminar in 2024

*As of 2 April 2024 and representing USA (not including Alaska and Hawaii) and for those survivors with a known location.



2023 NEW SURVIVORS

+9% more new survivors welcomed in 2023 than in 2022

9,611

New Survivors Connected with TAPS in 2023

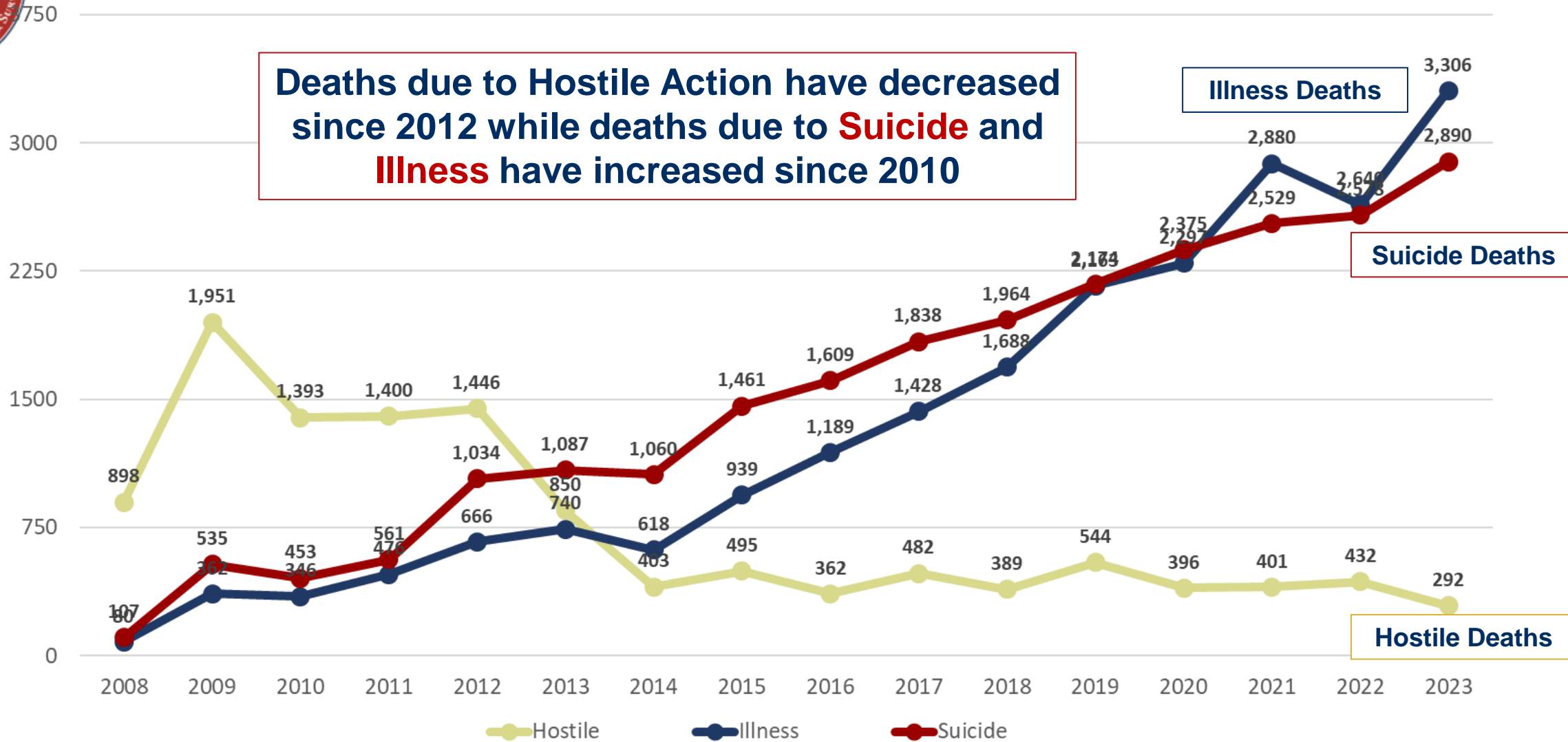
8,849

New Survivors Connected with TAPS in 2022

78% (7,490) of all new 2023 survivors **Adults**
21% (2,012) of all new 2023 survivors **Children**



MILITARY AND VETERAN – TRENDS IN SURVIVOR REPORTED CAUSE OF DEATH SINCE 2008



*Other causes of death are not represented on this graph and can be received from TAPS



TAPS TAILORED SUPPORT



**Survivor
Care Team**



**Casework
Assistance**



**24/7 National
Military Survivor
Helpline**



Peer Mentors



**Community
Based Care**



**Counseling
Connections**



**Education
Assistance**



**Emergency
Financial
Assistance**





ALWAYS BY THEIR SIDE



If our survivors do nothing proactive, they still receive
432 Messages of Hope and Healing from TAPS Every Year



EVERY DAY:

365 TAPS Daily Reflection Email Messages

EVERY YEAR:

1 Angelversary Card Honoring the Anniversary of their Loved One's Death

2X A MONTH:

24 Email Invitations to Join a TAPS Care Group

EVERY MONTH:

12 Monthly TAPS Family Newsletters

ONGOING PEER CONNECTION:

24 Invitations to Connect With Other Survivors with a Similar: Manner of Death | Gender | Relationship to Loved One | Other Special Circumstances

WHEN NEW TO GRIEF:

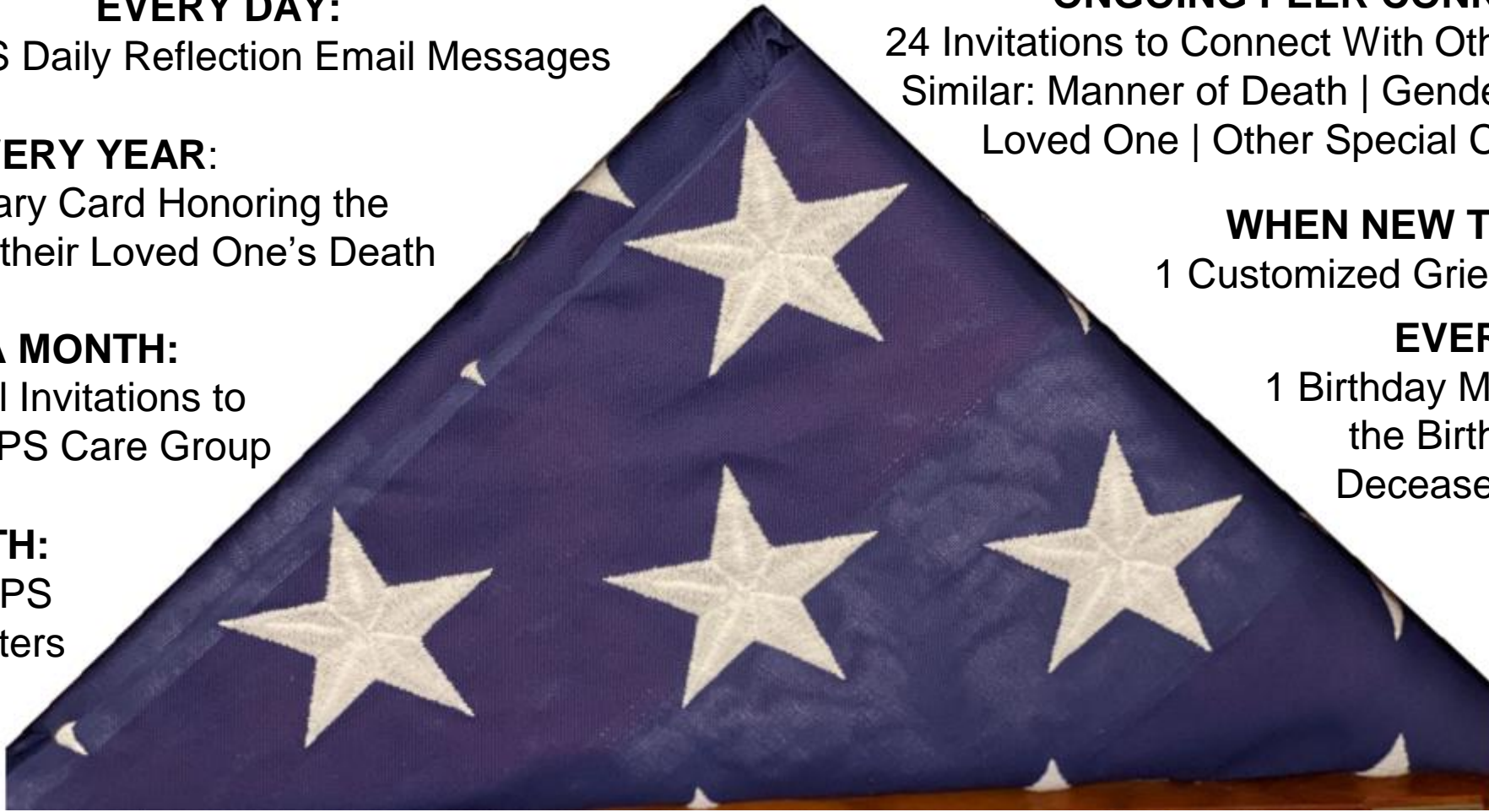
1 Customized Grief Resource Kit

EVERY YEAR:

1 Birthday Message Honoring the Birthday of Their Deceased Loved One

EVERY YEAR:

4 TAPS Quarterly Magazines





LIFE...AND DEATH.

HOW WE
WANT
GRIEF TO
WORK





LIFE...AND DEATH.

HOW WE
WANT
GRIEF TO
WORK



HOW GRIEF
ACTUALLY
WORKS





TAPS PROGRAMS

Survivor Seminars | Suicide Pre/Postvention | Caregiver to Survivor
Women's Empowerment | Sports & Entertainment | Outdoor Expeditions
Retreats | Care Groups | Young Adults | TAPS Together
Online Community | Virtual Programming





TAPPS SUPPORT TO YOUTH

Good Grief Camps | Family Campouts

Early Childhood | Young Adults | Online Support



GOOD GRIEF CAMP

"My boy has been coming for almost 10 years and the all-day events at Ft Myer were fantastic. He told me he felt this was the best Good Grief Camp he has attended. Also, the Group Leaders and Military Mentors were great as usually. Thank you!" – Surviving spouse

"TAPS has really been amazing for my daughter, by helping her establish friendships with other kids and adults that understand her loss. She doesn't feel quite as alone, even if every story is different, they all share a commonality in their grief, and I feel like the peer support is so important." - Surviving spouse





MILITARY AND LEGACY MENTORS



WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF SERVING AS A TAPS MILITARY MENTOR?

- 1 To make a difference in the life of a grieving military child
- 2 Honoring the life and legacy of a fellow service member or veteran
- 3 Supporting the needs of caregivers and survivors
- 4 Improved personal outlook on life



71%

of TAPS Military Mentors reported they volunteer in honor of a Battle Buddy

70%

of Mentors surveyed in 2020 reported they have served in combat post 9/11 with the majority having served in Operation Iraqi Freedom

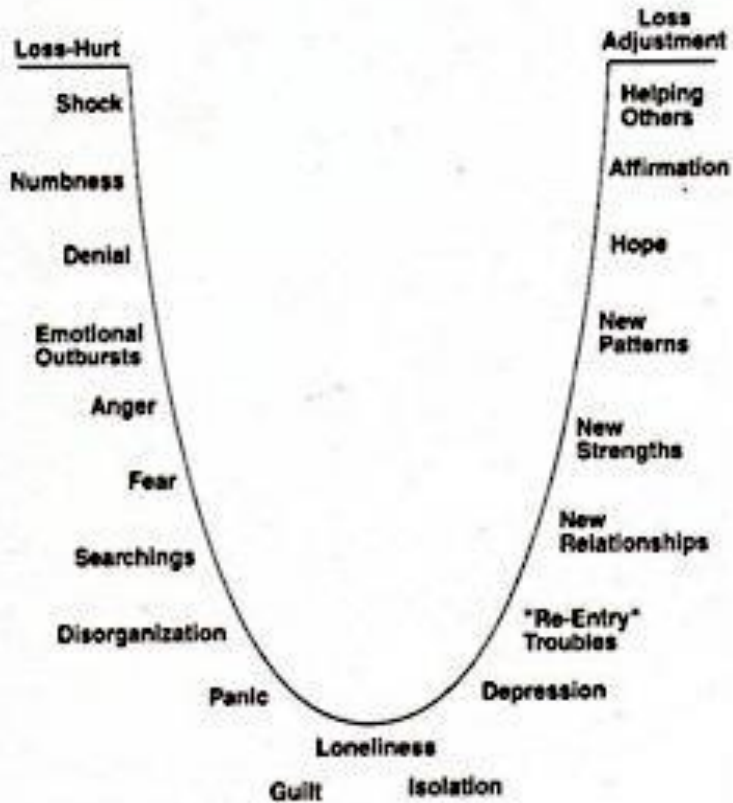
93%

of Mentors surveyed in 2020 reported they would recommend the TAPS Military Mentor program to a fellow service member or surviving military family



REALITY. IT'S WHERE WE LIVE

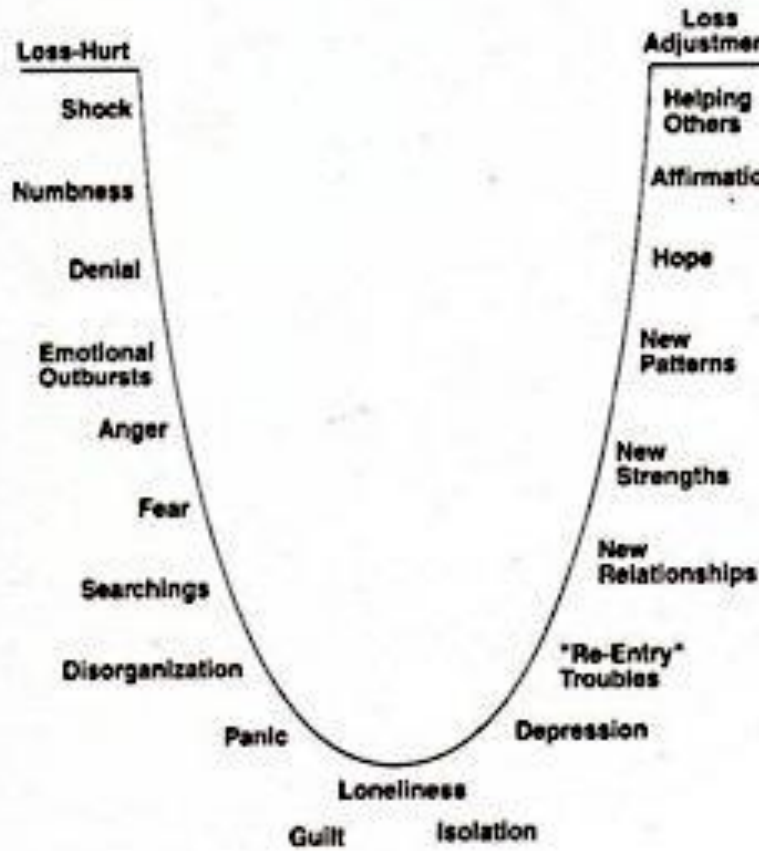
STAGES OF GRIEF





REALITY. IT'S WHERE WE LIVE

STAGES OF GRIEF



My experience





TAPS MODEL OF BEREAVEMENT

Safety & Stabilization



GOAL: Provide immediate care, comfort, and practical support to survivors.

Healthy Grief Journey



GOAL: Assist survivors in confronting and acknowledging their loss, addressing emotions of grief and establish a sense of hope for the future.

Meaning & Purpose



GOAL: Help survivor derive a sense of meaning from their loss and integrate positive life patterns while looking ahead to their future.



Dooley, C.M., Carroll, B., Fry, L.E., Seamon-Lahiff, G. & Bartone, P.T. (2019). A Model for Supporting Grief Recovery Following Traumatic Loss: The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). *Military Medicine*. doi:10.1093/milmed/usz084



TAPS POSTVENTION MODEL™



Stabilization

- Task 1: Assessment for mental health concerns, suicide risk assessment, and referral
- Task 2: Trauma assessment and referral
- Task 3: Assess, identify, and stabilize all suicide-specific issues



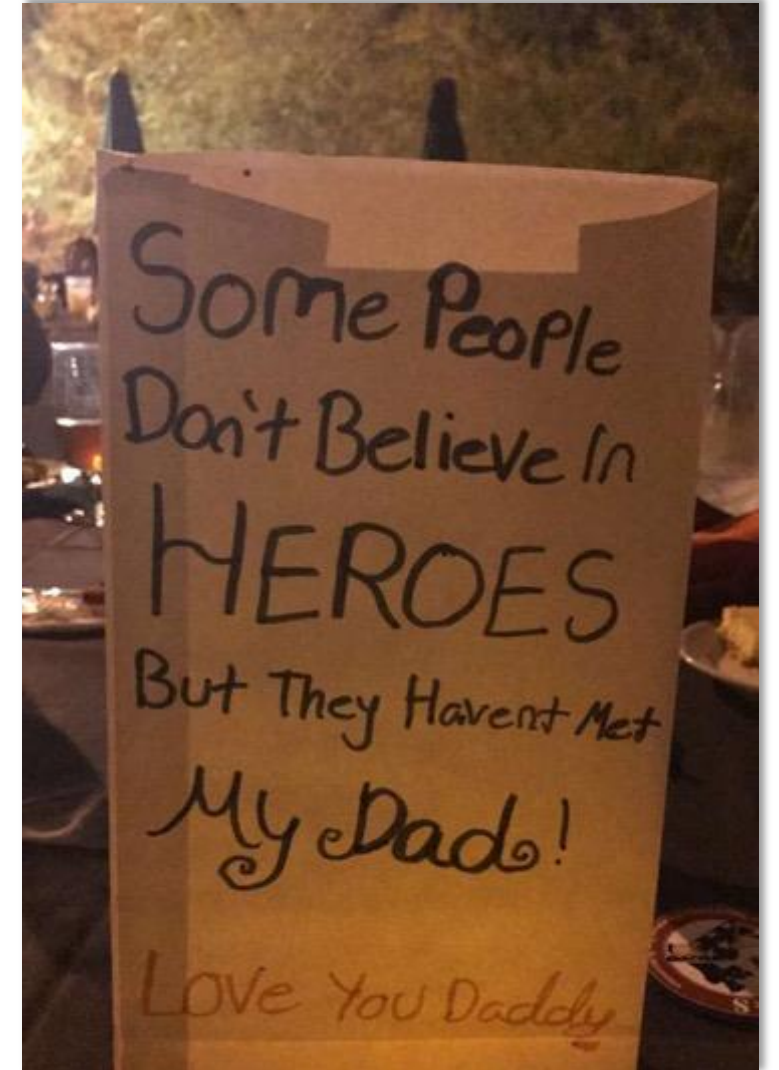
Grief Work

- Task 1: Move away from the cause of death
- Task 2: Incorporate grief by finding a rhythm
- Task 3: Form a new relationship with the deceased



Posttraumatic Growth

- Task 1: Finding meaning from the loss
- Task 2: Tell and share the story in a hopeful, healing way
- Task 3: Discover a new appreciation for life



²Ruocco, K., Stumpf Patton, C., Burditt, K., Carroll, B., & Mabe, M. (2021): TAPS Postvention Model™: A comprehensive framework of healing and growth, *Death Studies*, doi:10.1080/07481187.2020.1866241



WHAT SURVIVORS GAIN

This weekend
I want to
establish peace
inside my own
soul! ♥

Figure out what to do
with the rest of my
life.

TO -
Start living
and stop
existing.
Amy

To reflect on the
anniversary of Cesar's
death the life that we
shared and who I am
now. To find a place of
peace with the two.

THEY served. THEY died.
THEIR stories
DO NOT END
#livinglegacy
www.taps.org





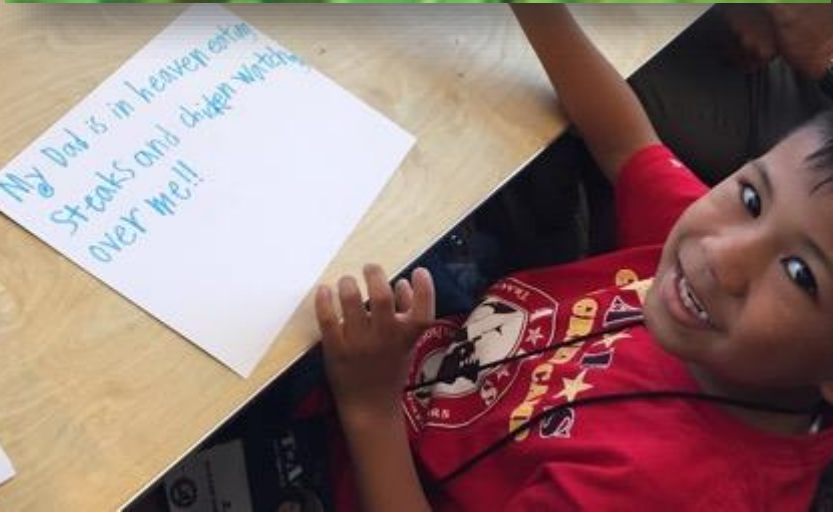
I want
survive with
out my mom



My dad past away and
TAPS have helped me
a lot

Sometime I think I will
be bullied at school.
I do not like my mom
to leave home alone
I hope he/bother is
good in school
I scared one day my
friends will leave
me one day.
I don't like planes
because I think it
will fall

Hello dad I miss ~~with~~ ^{kiting} with you. Do you?
How are you doing? Do you miss me? How is
it up there? Would have been my dad if you hadn't
died? I am doing fine I have been sad since
you died Are you sad that you died too if you
hadn't died I wouldn't be in TAPS I am sad
and happy sad because you died. but happy
because I get to make new friends. Please send
me a balloon or a sign that you miss me ASK
God if you could spend one day with me even
if I can't see you. Sincerely,
M.





TAPS®

Institute for Hope and Healing

Have you seen our
webinars?
TAPS.org/Institute

Designed specifically for:
Mental Health Professionals
Military Survivors | Bereavement
Professionals | Military Casualty

Institute@TAPS.org



taps.org/institute



TAPS QUARTERLY MILITARY SURVIVOR MAGAZINE

Are you receiving the TAPS
Magazine?

TAPS.org/Magazine

- ★ Bulk Shipments
- ★ Personal Delivery

Have an idea for an article?
Contact: Editor@TAPS.org

For the Loved Ones of Those Who Served and Died
TAPS[®]
TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS
WINTER 2023



Love Lives On

LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR BEREAVED

Speak their names

Encourage conversations about loved ones

Keep a journal

Shift between expression and reflection

Share grief

Connect with others in family or similar group

Review photos

Celebrate high points, acknowledge low points

Reconstruct legacy

Keep the loved one's stories alive; Digital storytelling

Review resilience

Explore strengths and success over adversity

Live in the now

Slow down into the present moment

Conduct rituals

Symbolically honor loved one as well as personal change

Make meaning

Explore what has significance now



"Grief is itself a medicine."

– William Cowper

You might hear grief described as an illness or a “condition” some time. That’s because our scientific-method-obsessed, evidence-based discipline of medicine – which includes mental health – has tried to take ownership of grief and mourning.

But grief isn’t an illness or disorder.

It’s the natural and necessary counterpart to having loved.

We don’t need to be “treated” for our grief.

There’s nothing wrong with us.

We just need to grieve and express our grief.

That’s it. Nothing more; nothing less.



TAPS IS YOUR FORCE MULTIPLIER

Without coping strategies or a long-term support system in place, survivors could experience grief severity, prolonged trauma symptoms, and complicated grief. TAPS provides 24/7 support for you and your survivors

Connecting survivors immediately guarantees:

- ★ The likelihood survivors will seek and accept current and future assistance
- ★ Survivors will process their loss in a healthy manner and find meaning along grief journey
- ★ Individually tailored coping strategies
- ★ Positive and safe social engagement





EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- ★ **Emergency financial assistance to Guard and Reserve survivors regardless of duty status**
- ★ **Emotional support for all who are grieving**
 - ★ Peer-based emotional support and connections to vetted grief and trauma professionals
- ★ **Access to federal, state, and private resources**
- ★ **Secondary lodging following a death by suicide**
- ★ **24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline staffed by peer professionals**





TAPS.ORG/MILITARYCASUALTY



Developed specifically for our partners in military casualty

- ★ Steps To Connect Military and Veteran Survivors with TAPS
- ★ Links to DoD, VA, and Military OneSource Resources for Survivors
- ★ Death by Suicide Toolkit for Military Leadership
- ★ Document Library for All Manners of Death
- ★ Document Library for Suicide Loss

Keeping the Lights On

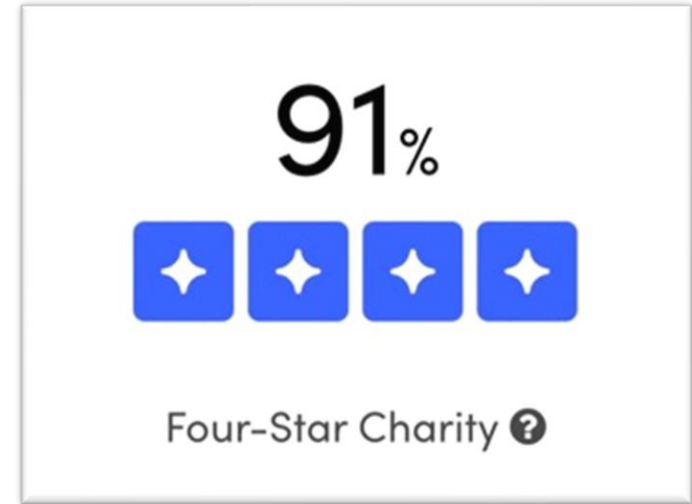
6%

Fundraising Initiatives

3%

Survivor Programs for the Loved One's of America's Fallen

91%



Charity Navigator

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Is this your nonprofit?
 501(c)(3) organization
 Donations are tax-deductible

<https://www.taps.org/>
 3033 Wilson Boulevard
 Third Floor
 Arlington VA 22201
 202-588-8277

Arlington VA | IRS ruling year: 1995 | EIN: 92-0152268

Organization Mission
 The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is the national organization providing compassionate care and survivor support services for the families of Ameri ... [\(More\)](#)

Rating Information
 Great

91%

Four-Star Charity

Impact & Results

Accountability & Finance

Culture & Community

Leadership & Adaptability

Donate

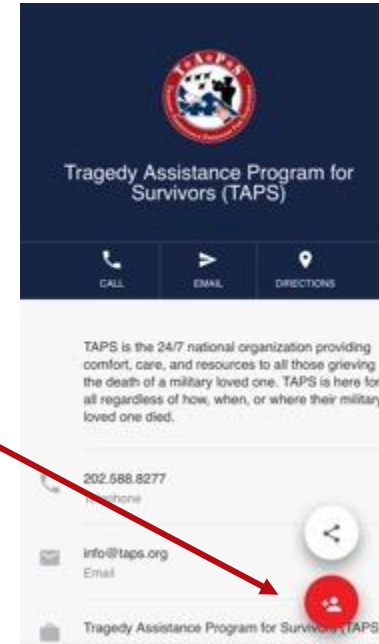
Favorite



SAVE AND SHARE TAPS CONTACT



24/7 800.959.TAPS
TAPS.org/JoinTAPS





MILITARY OUTREACH

TAPS.org/Connect | militarycasualty@TAPS.org

WELCOME TO THE TAPS FAMILY

TAPS is a family. A family of care, compassion and hope. We are here for you, whether you need someone to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a connection to resources, or an opportunity to remember and honor your loved one.

TAPS offers help, hope and healing to all who are grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one, regardless of the relationship to the service member or the circumstances or cause of death.

TAPS is currently engaged in monthly active outreach with over 1,800+ members of military casualty and mortuary affairs.

I HAVE LOST

a military or veteran loved one



I AM CONNECTING SOMEONE WHO HAS LOST

a military or veteran loved one



- ★ SOS, Navy Gold Star, Air Force Families Forever, Marine for Life
- ★ TAPS briefings for over 1,662 casualty Representatives across the USA, USAR, USN, USMC, USAF, and NGB
- ★ Customized news on TAPS programs and services sent to military casualty community that have opted in to receive updates from TAPS



TAPS®

is working

24/7

To provide hope and healing
during these challenging times

**National Military Survivor Helpline:
800-959-TAPS (8277)**

“The lives of those we love, remember, and honor are carved into our soul, imprinted on our hearts, and woven into the fabric of our nation. They make us stronger, they inspire us, and in that way, they are eternal.”

- Bonnie Carroll, TAPS Founder and President





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