MEDIA ADVISORY

TAPS Identifies Risk Factors and Trends in Military or Veteran Suicides to Support Families of the Fallen in Boston

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—OCT. 4, 2023

Bites & B-Roll: Vimeo, Dropbox

WHAT
Surviving military families of suicide loss, along with experts in the fields of suicide, grief, and trauma will gather this weekend for the National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp Oct 6-8. The seminar, hosted by Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), is in its 15th consecutive year. It offers invaluable resources to suicide-loss survivors grieving a military or veteran death and supports tens of thousands of military and veteran survivors, regardless of the relationship, duty status, or manner of death of their loved one.

Throughout the weekend, hundreds of families will get to know each other in a relaxed, welcoming setting with opportunities to share memories and find comfort, hope, and healing through peer support. Children and teens at the seminar will attend TAPS Good Grief Camp, where they will gain a network of friends who have also lost a family member to suicide. Experts in the fields of child development, mental health, and education will help Good Grief Camp participants process their grief and embrace healing through games, crafts, and other age-appropriate activities. Children are paired with volunteer mentors who are either fellow survivors and Good Grief Camp graduates or Military Mentors who grasp the unique nature of military-connected loss and the precious responsibility of supporting the loved ones left behind. This weekend of healing extends far beyond the three-day event, as survivors carry the tools and peer connections home where they continue to grow with their grief.

The TAPS Suicide Postvention Model™ is our very own field-leading, best-practice approach to suicide postvention grief support for survivors and providers in the aftermath of a suicide. The three-phase approach helps with immediate stabilization, support with processing grief, and paves the way for healing and post-traumatic growth.

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, and the second leading cause of death for people ages 10–14 and 25–34 years, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Similar CDC estimates indicate that suicide deaths further increased by 2.6 percent in 2022.

WHO
AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:
Bonnie Carroll, TAPS President and Founder, Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient
Surviving military family members, battle buddies, and friends grieving a suicide loss
Grief and suicide-loss experts
Military Mentors (current and veteran service members)

WHEN
Begins 3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 6
Concludes 5:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 8
Scan QR code for detailed agenda

Detailed Agenda
WHERE

DoubleTree Boston North Shore
50 Ferncroft Rd.
Danvers, MA 01923

TAPS is the national nonprofit providing comfort, care and resources to all those grieving the death of a military loved one. TAPS was founded by military-loss survivor, Bonnie Carroll, in 1994. TAPS — which, in the last 30 years, has become synonymous with 24/7, lifelong support for all grieving a military or veteran death — provides resources during each step of a survivor's walk through grief with a combination of peer-based support, the 24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline, in-person events, community-based care, casework assistance, and grief and trauma resources. The TAPS mission has touched more than 100,000 survivors, casualty assistance officers, chaplains, and bereavement supporters since its founding.

DIRECT MEDIA INQUIRIES: Susan Forbes
Press Kit Materials: TAPS Backgrounder, Bonnie Carroll Bio
Bites & B-Roll: Vimeo, Dropbox
On-site interviews, bites, b-roll, and stills available
Available for live shots

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