

"Grief is not a disorder, a disease, or a sign of weakness. It is an emotional, physical, and spiritual necessity, the price you pay for love. The only cure for grief is to grieve."
— Rabbi Earl Grollman

TAPS

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

February 2025

HEAL



Picking Up the Pieces

After a devastating loss, it can be hard to return to “normal” — even a new normal. Where do we begin? Surviving Father Chris Beck compares his grief and the process of moving forward to the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle in this incredibly relatable blog. You may be able to take a piece of Chris’ experience and apply it to your grief journey.

[Read the Blog](#)

GROW



Join TAPS for Family Camp

Surviving families with children between 5 and 19 years old, apply to attend the Georgia Family Camp happening February 28 to March 3 at Camp Southern Ground in Fayetteville, Georgia. TAPS Family Camps allow families to build communication, broaden understanding, and learn to support each other through a weekend of peer conversations, family projects, and exciting activities, like ropes courses, zip-lining, and fun in nature. Applications are open now, and the eligibility criteria and camp schedule can be found by clicking the button below.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

HOPE



Winter Beginnings

Though we end each year in winter, it's also how we begin each year. It's a reminder that — even in the winter of grief — growth is still happening, and hope is all around. This article follows two surviving children on their journey of peer support, a beautiful story that is just getting started.

[Read the Article](#)

LEARN



Landmark Legislation Passes — What This Means for Survivors

Early last month, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) was signed into law. The legislation enhances several Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services for veterans, caregivers, and survivors. Sections 201, 202, and 303 are three areas that may most significantly impact our TAPS community:

- Section 201: This section expands Fry Scholarship benefits for surviving spouses and those who remarry by including veterans who die in the line of duty or because of a service-connected disability.
- Section 202: This section expands Fry Scholarship benefits for surviving spouses and those who remarry by removing the expiration date for entitlement.
- Section 303: This section defines “surviving spouse” as someone who lived continuously with the veteran until their death and who has not remarried.

TAPS continues to work to advance policy and legislation in support of military and veteran survivors. Visit our advocacy page to view our priorities and accomplishments for the TAPS community.

[See Our Legislative Priorities](#)

PLAN



2025 TAPS Military Survivor Seminars and Good Grief Camps

TAPS hopes to welcome you to a national or regional seminar and Good Grief Camp this year. View our 2025 seminar schedule below, and make plans to join us. Hotel rooms for both national events will be offered at a discounted group rate, and thanks to the generosity of the Fisher House Foundation, TAPS will offer a limited number of free Hero Miles flights on a first-come, first-served basis for attendees who have not previously used Hero Miles.

31st Annual National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
May 22-26, Arlington, Virginia

Northeast Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
July 10-13, Buffalo, New York

Western Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
August 22-24, Phoenix, Arizona

Southern Regional Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
September 26-28, San Antonio, Texas

National Military Suicide Loss Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp
November 14-16, Phoenix, Arizona
Only for Suicide-Loss Survivors

In addition to our seminars, check taps.org/events regularly to see all the unique experiences as they become available. And, for support and community close to home, explore the **TAPS Care Groups** and **TAPS Together** happening near you and the **TAPS Institute for Hope and Healing** webinars available each month.

[Browse Events](#)



Online Groups

By Relationship, Peer Group, &
Type of Loss

[Find a Group](#)



Community Events

TAPS Together, Care Groups, & Events
Happening Nationwide, Year-Round

[Find an Event](#)



Team TAPS Events

Honoring Loved Ones at Events
Nationwide

[Join the Team](#)



Young Adults Events

In-Person & Online Events
Survivors Ages 18-30

[Find an Event](#)



Youth Programs

In-Person & Online Events
School-Aged Survivors and Parents

[Browse Events](#)



TAPS Institute

Workshops, Seminars, & Discussions for
the Bereaved and their Supporters

[Browse Courses](#)

Compassionate TAPS support is available 24/7 via our National
Military Survivor Helpline: **202-588-TAPS (8277)**.



Donate



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