

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature;
the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."
— Rachel Carson

TAPS

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

March 2025

HONOR



2025 Military Mentor of the Year

Each year at the TAPS Honor Guard Gala, TAPS presents the Military Mentor of the Year award to an outstanding U.S. service member or veteran committed to bringing comfort and companionship to children and teens grieving a military-connected loss. The recipient is selected from a pool of more than 700 fellow Military Mentors who volunteer with TAPS and represent a critical component of the TAPS mission.

This year, TAPS is proud to bestow the title of Military Mentor of the Year to Jarred "Jay" Hufford for his unwavering dedication to the TAPS community. In the 10-plus years Hufford has dedicated to TAPS — and the many surviving children he has supported — he has learned that he and his fellow Military Mentors may not always have the answers for all the questions they field from bereaved children, but presence along the journey of grief is a crucial part of helping children grow with grief.

GROW



Growing Together: Finding Strength in Nature

As the weather warms, it's a wonderful opportunity to embrace the outdoors and reconnect with your community. For many people, it is restorative and energizing to spend time outdoors. TAPS offers numerous opportunities to gather with fellow survivors in nature, right in your own community, and share those peaceful, uplifting moments together.

[Find Events Near You](#)

ADVOCATE



TAPS in Action

Last month, TAPS joined other military organizations in reintroducing the Love Lives On Act to Congress. The proposed legislation is the first comprehensive approach to allowing eligible military surviving spouses to retain survivor benefits upon remarriage prior to age 55.

"TAPS is grateful to Senators Moran, Warnock and our 22 Senate original cosponsors as well as Representatives Hudson, Morrison, Van Orden, Neguse and Khanna for their leadership in reintroducing comprehensive remarriage legislation, the Love Lives On Act of 2025. Their leadership in the last Congress led to the passage of many of the provisions of the Love Lives on Act of 2023, and we look forward to passing the remaining provisions of this important legislation to ensure surviving military spouses retain their benefits upon remarriage at any age. Surviving spouses should not have to choose between finding love again and financial security." - Bonnie Carroll

Learn more about all the ways TAPS is advocating for military survivors on Capitol Hill and how you can participate.

[View Our Legislative Efforts](#)

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.

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 Togethers** 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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