



Words of Remembrance

Honoring the life and remembering the sacrifice of the military community doesn't start and end with just Memorial Day. Here at TAPS we provide comfort, care and resources to all those grieving the death of a military loved one 24/7. And you can help us in achieving this!

We're seeking participation in a letter writing campaign that aims to share love with our families all across the world.



Here's how you can help:

- ❖ Choose medium: You can choose 8.5" x 11" paper or similarly sized patterned writing pad.
- ❖ Write words of remembrance: Using the writing guidelines on Page 2, craft your message.
- ❖ Gather your letters: Using standard mail shipping through the USPS you can send letters back to TAPS individually, or gather multiple letters and send in a box if assembled as a group.
- ❖ Send to TAPS: Using the shipping instructions on Page 3, mail your letters back to TAPS for dispersal to families.



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Writing Instructions:

Here is suggested verbiage for the cards:

NOTE: The below verbiage references “weekend”. This is because that’s the type of language generally used for cards provided during a TAPS seminar weekend. If you write a card that does not reference “weekend”, those cards will be distributed to families through a different mechanism.

“We honor and remember the life and service of your loved one who gave so much to this country. We hope you have a healing weekend with your TAPS family. With kind regards,”

“We will pause this weekend to honor and remember your loved one and the many others who gave so much for our country and the freedoms we cherish. We hope you have a supportive weekend with your TAPS family and we are thinking of you. With care,”

“This weekend is about honoring the service and sacrifice of so many, who gave so much. We pause to remember your loved one and your family’s sacrifice for our country. We hope you have a supportive weekend with your TAPS family. With kind regards,”

“We know the supportive arms of your TAPS family will be all around you this weekend. Please know that you are in our thoughts for the sacrifice your loved one made for this country. With care,”

Here is suggested language to stay away from using:

“I understand how you feel”

“I understand exactly how you feel”

“I know how you feel because my....”

“Don’t be sad”

“You should be happy”

“They wouldn’t want for you to cry”

“I hope you are happy again someday”

“It was their time”

“It was their destiny”

“They are in a better place”

“It’s too bad your loved one died for nothing” (yes, people have said that to survivors)

“We should have never fought these wars”

Political comments and commentary on the wars are not appropriate:

We generally advise to avoid religious comments – as some families go more heavily religious, and others less so with the death – and a variety of religions are represented among survivors, so there is no guarantee that the person reading the card will be of the writer’s religious persuasion. We usually say “thinking of you” instead of “praying for you”

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Shipping your letters:

- ❖ Put your letters and cards in a large envelope or box (based on the number of letters). Please keep in mind all letters **MUST** go through an internal screening process to ensure the contents of each letter are appropriate.
- ❖ When sending the envelopes or box to TAPS, please use **ATTN: Words of Remembrance**.
- ❖ Ship your letter to:

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
ATTN: Words of Remembrance
3033 Wilson Blvd, Third Floor,
Arlington, VA 22201



TAPS Thanks You!