

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS



OUR BEGINNING... OUR MISSION

In November 1992, eight soldiers perished in a C-12 crash in Alaska. No support network existed for military families. These survivors found the most powerful comfort from each other, and in 1994, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) was born. TAPS is committed to providing compassionate care to anyone who is grieving the death of someone who died while serving in the military, regardless of circumstance of death, relationship to the deceased. Services are provided free-of-charge. Surviving families are immediately informed of the support and services TAPS provides for them. Casualty officers immediately inform surviving families of the comfort and care available through TAPS. Soon after the notification of their hero's death, grieving military families are told they are not alone, there is support, comfort, and care available to them through TAPS.

NATIONAL MILITARY SURVIVOR HELPLINE: GRIEF KNOWS NO SCHEDULE

TAPS understands the needs of a grieving heart do not follow an 8 to 5 business day. We are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through our National Military Survivor Helpline. Answered by a TAPS survivor care team member since 1994, TAPS provides vital and sometimes lifesaving support at any time, day or night. On average, the Helpline receives 1,500 calls per month. Each call begins with a survivor care team member who connects the survivor and stays on the phone until an action plan is put into place or the survivor receives the help they need.

TAPS PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2017, TAPS held 250 programs in 50 states and 3 countries. These included Seminars, Retreats, Family Camps, Good Grief Camps and more, where over 9,000 TAPS survivors were able to connect in a safe and healing environment to share their stories, learn from one another, and gain valuable coping skills

EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Since the August 2014 launch of the TAPS Education Assistance Program and online portal, TAPS has helped thousands of survivors gain access to over \$200,000,000 in scholarships, VA benefits, state waivers and grants for post-secondary education.

FUNDING

TAPS receives no government funding. TAPS is able to care for the families of our nation's fallen military heroes through the generosity of corporations and individual donors.



No organization is ... as responsible for the sense of confidence that ... our families would be taken care of than TAPS.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford, USMC

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WWW.TAPS.ORG



COMMUNITY-BASED GRIEF SUPPORT

TAPS connects survivors with free and unlimited professional counselors through partnerships with Vet Centers, community resources and local providers licensed in mental health treatment to ensure the counseling needs of survivors are met. TAPS Care Groups operate around the country

CASEWORK – EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

TAPS provides immediate critical financial assistance to those surviving family members confirmed to be in urgent need for necessities. These grants are often for surviving families who have fallen on hard times as a result of their overwhelming grief and subsequent loss of employment.

We work closely with trusted partners to find and use as many resources as possible that fit the needs of each situation. Close relationships with government agencies and service branches help us resolve issues regarding burials, benefits, eligibility, records and more, while a network of other organizations consult regularly on everything from health care and insurance issues to financial hardship and credit counseling.

PEER BASED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

TAPS was designed to not replicate services offered by other organizations, the military, or the government. The heart of our organization is survivors helping survivors heal. A growing body of evidence supports this type of “companioning” as an effective strategy to assist the bereaved.



VOLUNTEERS

In 2017, more than 2,100 volunteers logged over 65,000 hours of service. Our Military Mentors account for almost half of those hours. Military Mentors are integral to our Good Grief Camps. Each child is paired with a Mentor to be with them for the entire weekend. Typically, the Mentors are former or current military and they stay in touch with the child for many years after their initial meeting. TAPS covers the costs to research, train and house all the mentors needed for our Good Grief Camps.

Whether it’s mentoring a child who lost a loved one, providing peer support to a fellow widow, packaging resource kits for newly grieving families, TAPS volunteers are making personal investments that are positively impacting countless lives.

WORK TO BE DONE

Survivors coming to TAPS are still on the rise. Every military death brings new family members and loved ones to TAPS. We are on the front line providing support to those facing their darkest time and an unexpected, uncertain future. Please show your support for our military families.

TAPS Founder and President Bonnie Carroll was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama on November 24, 2015. She accepted it behalf of the hundreds of thousands of surviving families and friends who will forever grieve their fallen hero.

