



Survivor Outreach Services



Demonstrating the Army's Commitment to the Families of the Fallen

Survivor Outreach Services
Army Community Service
61 Quebec Street, BLDG 683
Fort Devens, MA 01434

Winter 2013

Survivor Outreach Services



**Fort Devens Welcome Center
61 Quebec Street, Building 683**

Hours of Operation

0630-1600 Monday –Friday

https://www.devens.army.mil/2012_SOS.html

ACS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

978-796-3023/3119

Happy New Year and sincerest greetings for a healthy and happy 2013! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information, stories and more to the families of the fallen. Survivor Outreach Services is a holistic and multi-agency approach to delivering services by assigning a survivor a support coordinator to help with any and all unresolved issues or questions that may surface after a loss. The program was created to embrace and reassure Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified program that enables each survivor to remain an important part of the Army.

In this issue of the newsletter is information on education assistance and scholarship opportunities. There are many opportunities for surviving spouses and children to take advantage of these opportunities. A very special thank you to Gene Novitski, Survivor Outreach Services Financial Counselor Fort Dix, NJ for compiling the list. The New Year is a time for new beginnings and of course tax season. There is also information to assist you in filing your loved ones taxes. This can be a very grueling process, please take advantage of any assistance provided to you. As always, financial counseling is available to you.

The Massachusetts Community of Organizations supporting families of the fallen is a warm, knowledgeable and committed group. For more information on any organization please contact Erica Zeiger at Erica.a.zeiger.civ@mail.mil or 978.796.3119.

Helpful Contacts and Resources

Massachusetts Survivor Outreach Services
Helon A. Wyllie III
Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)
Massachusetts Coordinator
MPSC Contractor
1.508. 233-7714
14 Minuteman Lane, Wellesley, MA 02184-3607
helon.wyllie@us.army.mil

American Gold Star Dads
951.833.2935
<http://www.goldstardads.org>

American Gold Star Mothers
202.265.0991
<http://www.goldstarmoms.com>

American Widow Project
1.877.297.9436
<http://americanwidowproject.org/>

Defense Finance & Accounting Office
1.800.321.1080
www.dfas.mil

Department of Veterans Affairs
Benefits and Counseling Information
1.800.827.1000
<http://www.va.gov>

Gold Star Wives of America
1.888.751.6350
<http://www.goldstarwives.org>

Project New Hope
508.713.3362
<http://www.projectnewhopema.org/>

Military Friends Foundation
617.733.7994
www.militaryfriends.org

Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund
1.888.909.Hero (4376)
<http://www.massmilitaryheroes.org/>

Military One Source
1-800-342-9647
www.armyonesource.com

National Military Families Association (NMFA)
<http://www.militaryfamily.org>

Social Security Administration
1.800.772.1213
<http://www.ssa.gov>

Tricare
Health and Dental Insurance
1.877.Tricare (874-8898)
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil>
Hanscom Air Force Base
Tricare/Health Benefits Advisor: 1.781.225.6198

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
1.800.959.TAPS (8277)
www.taps.org
US Family Health Care Plan
<http://usfamilyhealth.org/>
1.888.815.5510

Fort Devens ACS Facebook: Fort Devens ACS and SOS are on Facebook! "Like" to find out the latest news and happenings on Fort Devens and around the Army. We can be found by linking to our page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Devens-ACS/123145824448800#!/> or searching for Fort Devens ACS and clicking "Like"

Education Assistance and Scholarship Information

Scholarships, Grants and other Educational Resources potentially available for Military Widows/Widowers and their Families

As always, the VA www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap12.asp has educational assistance available for your needs. There are also scholarships that can be used in conjunction with those funds. Please keep in mind that some schools have rules/policies concerning the use of multiple scholarships and also be aware of potential tax issues regarding the tax situation when some cumulative scholarships are in excess of tuition costs. It is wise to check with your school's financial counselor as well as the tax center for scholarship use, age restrictions and guidelines.

Below is a reprint list of Scholarships, Grant and other Educational Resources that we have come across for Military Survivors and their families. We are not endorsing nor are we linked to the below but hope that you find the information valuable. Please review each website for eligibility, deadline dates, scholarship amount and how to apply.

The following five links refer to lists that various organizations have compiled:

<http://www.ausa.org/resources/familyprograms/resources/InternetResources/Pages/ScholarshipInformation.aspx>

<http://www.goldstarwives.org/resources-military-family.htm>

<http://www.americanwidowproject.org/resources/scholarships/>

http://m.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/education_and_training/scholarships_and_other_financial_assistance/scholarships_and_grants_for_spouses_and_dependents

<http://www.militarychild.org/parents-and-students/scholarships>

The following links are some of the scholarship websites that have been specifically shared with us during the year from fellow Survivors and others.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

Eknowledge www.eknowledge.com/default.asp?noRepeat=yes&first=no

Fallen Patriot Fund www.fallenpatriotfund.org

Fallen Warrior Scholarship www.patriotguard.org

Fisher House Scholarship <http://www.militaryscholar.org/>

Folds of Honor (Future & Immediate Use) www.foldsofhonor.org

Freedom Alliance Scholarship www.freedomalliance.org
Fry Scholarship www.gibill.va.gov
Got your Back Network www.gotyourbacknetwork.org
Heroes Legacy Scholarship Program www.militaryscholars.org
Higher Education Assistance Program www.americaschild.org
Hope for the Warriors Spouse Scholarship www.hopeforthewarriors.org
Joanne Holbrook Military Spouse Scholarship www.militaryfamily.org
MG James Ursano Scholarship www.aerhq.org
MOAA Scholarship Fund www.moaa.org
National Association of State Directors of Veterans www.nasdva.net
National Resource Directory www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov
Pat Tillman Foundation www.patillmanfoundation.org
Thanks USA www.thanksusa.org
Scholarships for Military Children www.militaryscholar.org
Scholarship Finder www.military.com/scholarship
Special Operations Warrior Foundation www.specialops.org

Upcoming Events



Project New Hope Inc is pleased to announce they will be hosting a Gold Star weekend retreat with a Nature's class room April 19th to the 21st 2013. The deadline to resister is April 5th, registration is online at www.projectnewhopema.org.

Thanks To Yanks-annual Tribute to Military Families

FREE MAGIC SHOW!!

Featuring Tommy James
Sunday February 10th, 2013
Time: 1:15 - 2:00 PM (Magic Show)
Doors open at 12:45 PM
Stacy Middle School Auditorium
66 School Street Milford, MA 01757

For more information or questions please see flyer in this newsletter or call Please call Michael Shain at 508-330-8487 with questions

Tax Time Is Now!

Survivor Outreach Services is here to provide you information and referrals when filing your tax return. The Massachusetts National Guard is proud to offer free tax preparation and asset building services to All Servicemembers, Post 9/11 Veterans and surviving families are eligible for this service. Please see additional information in this newsletter.

When seeing a tax preparer it is important to be prepared for the meeting. Some key items to bring are:

- All W-2's
- 1099's stating interest, dividends, capital gains, distributions from any pensions and IRA's
- Unemployment compensation and/or other income received
- Any information regarding credit or any deduction you wish to claim
- Social Security numbers for you and any family member claimed on your return
- A copy of last year's return
- If claiming the child care/dependent care deduction, you must have proof of payment and the caregiver's SSN or Employer's Employee Identification Number (EIN)
- To claim adjustments, credits or itemized deductions, have receipts and totaled amounts.
- A check, deposit slip or some proof of bank routing and account number

There are a number of unique situations for surviving families. Many tax preparers are familiar with Publication 3 Armed Forces' Tax Guide which discusses Forgiveness of Decedent's Tax Liability, Combat Zone Related Forgiveness, Terrorist or Military Action Related Forgiveness and Claims for Tax Forgiveness.

Additional publications include publication 559 Survivors, Executors, and Administrations includes information on Tax Forgiveness for Armed Forces Members, Victims of Terrorism and Astronauts and publication 590 Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) describe treatment of Death Gratuity (DG) which can be up to \$100,000 and Service members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) which can be up to \$400,000.

Important to note is any child who is receiving monies from the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) may have to file a return regardless of their age.

Please do not hesitate to contact Erica Zeiger, Accredited Financial Counselor at 978.796.3119 with any questions who can provide this information to your tax preparer.

2013 MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE & ASSET BUILDING PROGRAM



The Massachusetts National Guard is proud to offer free tax preparation and asset building services to ALL SERVICEMEMBERS and POST 9/11 VETERANS in Massachusetts. In 2012 we prepared over 1,500 tax returns and saved Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families close to \$240,000 in tax preparation fees. We are experts in preparing returns for the military and we do it for FREE. We hope that you utilize our program in 2013. *-MAJ Shannon McLaughlin*

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Brockton, Cape Cod, Chicopee, Devens, Milford, Reading, Wellesley



EMAIL SGT MARROQUIN FOR AN APPOINTMENT

We prepare returns at many locations throughout the state by appointment only. Please email me at daisy.l.marroquin.mil@mail.mil to schedule an appointment. Include your name, contact phone #, best time to contact and preferred location. I will then contact you to walk you through the intake process. *-SGT Daisy Marroquin*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM? : ALL ACTIVE, GUARD, & RESERVE SERVICE-MEMBERS FROM ALL MILITARY BRANCHES LIVING IN OR IN A UNIT IN MASSACHUSETTS. ALL POST 9/11 VETERANS LIVING IN MASSACHUSETTS

CAN YOU PREPARE STATE RETURNS?: YES. ALL OF THEM.

FAQs

CAN YOU PREPARE ALL TYPES OF RETURNS: YES, WE PREPARE MOST TYPES BUT SOME ADVANCED TAX FORMS FALL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM.

DO YOU PROVIDE SECOND LOOKS LIKE SOME PAID PREPARERS?: NO.

DO I NEED AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE MY RETURN PREPARED? YES, PLEASE EMAIL SGT MARROQUIN AND SHE WILL CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IS THIS SERVICE FREE?: YES. WE PREPARE & E-FILE, ALL FOR FREE.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?: PLEASE EMAIL SGT MARROQUIN.

Thanks To Yanks-annual Tribute to Military Families

Honoring the families and children of those who
selflessly answer the "call of duty"



FREE MAGIC SHOW

Sunday February 10th, 2013

Time: 1:15 - 2:00 PM (Magic Show)

Doors open at 12:45 PM

Stacy Middle School Auditorium
66 School Street Milford, MA 01757

Public is also very welcome free of charge

If possible bring an item with you that we will send to support homeless veterans.
For a list of items please visit uxbridgesupportsourtroops.org/donate baskets will
be available for collection.

*While tickets are free, seating is limited and must be reserved, by
noon, 02/08/2013. To reserve your FREE tickets email requests to
mshain@charlesriverbank.com with the number of tickets needed. You
will receive a confirmation email.*

Special thanks to Charles River Bank & Military Friends Foundation, for their
generous support.

Please call Michael Shain at 508-330-8487 with questions
or visit www.thankstoyanks.org