



42nd Edition—April 2014



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES



**Delivering the Army's
Commitment to Survivors**

Survivor Outreach Services
provides support services for
Active, Reserve and
Army National Guard Families.



**ARMY FAMILY COVENANT:
Keeping the Promise**

ARMYOneSource.com

**Don't like waiting for the
monthly newsletter, be sure
to like us on Facebook.**

<http://tinyurl.com/IllinoisSOS>

Military – Gold Star



Finally, now any Illinois resident who is a surviving widow/widower, parent or siblings of a person who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and lost his/her life while serving during peacetime or war may be issued (but there still is a fee) a special set of license plates.

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license_plate_guide/military/gold_star.html.

The link for the Affirmation for Illinois Gold Star License Plates is attached

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/vsd669.pdf

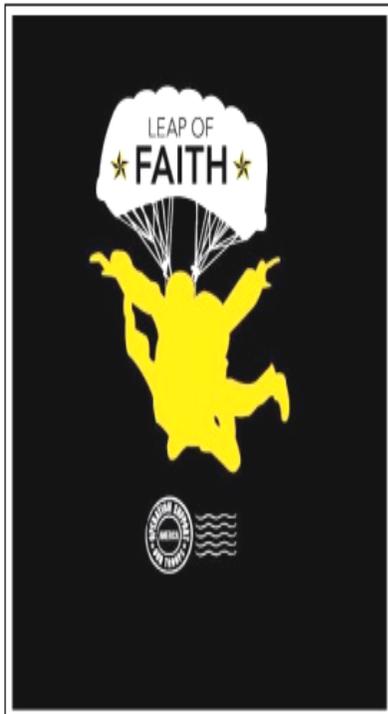
Inside this Edition

Leap of faith— Page 2
Upcoming Events Pages 3-5
Bereavement Study— Page 6
Scholarship Information — Pages 7-8
Fallen Warrior Bears-Page 9
“MARK MY WORDS” - Pages 10
DS Logon — Page 11-12
SOS/Resources —Page 13-15



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Leap of Faith



About Leap of Faith

“Leap of Faith” is a three day seminar and healing experience based on the notion that those families of fallen service members could live life fully and in a way that honored the life of their service member, despite there terrible loss.

The seminar teaches

new ideas about the grieving process, coping skills to keep moving forward, healthy living and encourages participants to strive to making a difference in the country their loved one had sacrificed his/her life for. Dr. Doug McKinley, a licensed clinical psychologist leads the seminar portion with a specific emphasis on post traumatic growth. Additional presentations on healthy lifestyle choices, exercise and good nutrition are also part of the seminar portion.

We are proud and excited to partner with the All Veteran Parachute Team, led by retired Army Golden Knight Team Leader Mike Elliott and consisting predominantly of retired Golden Knights. As part of this seminar, the attendees have the option to take a literal “Leap of Faith” by participating in a tandem skydive with a member of the team. Additional experiences include as well as therapeutic interaction with either horses or dolphins (depending on location). Group sessions give participants an opportunity to discuss the challenges and growth opportunities they face.

OSOT America covers all expenses for the participant and a support person, with the exception of travel. (Financial assistance for travel is available on a limited basis according to need). For more information on Leap of Faith please call 630 971 1150 or email

<http://www.osotamerica.org/programs/leap-of-faith-2/>





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Horse Camp



Horse Camp is back!

Choose from six day camp sessions at BraveHearts in Poplar Grove, IL.

Limited number of available seats per session.

Registration is Required

Meals are not provided

Join us for a fun filled day connecting with your service member. Activities includes horseback riding, horse care, and strengthen skills like communication, leadership, resiliency

For all military youth ages 6-17yrs with their service member (or parent/guardian)

Session Dates:
March 8th, 2014
April 5th, 2014
May 24th, 2014
June 21st, 2014
July 19th, 2014
September 5th, 2014

From 9am-4pm

To register or additional information, contact

Sara Lesko
Child & Youth Program Coordinator
Cell: 512-791-4833
Office: 708-824-6062
Email: sara.e.lesko.ctr@mail.mil



BRAVEHEARTS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING &
EDUCATIONAL CENTER

To register or for additional information contact Sara Lesko
Child & Youth Program Coordinator at Cell: 517-791-4833;
Office: 708-824-6062 Email: sara.e.lesko.ctr@mail.com



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Camp Corral - Military Kids Camp

"Free" Week-Long Camp for Military Dependents Ages 8 – 15yrs



Registration is now open !!
July 6-11, 2014
4-H Memorial Camp near Monticello, IL.
Apply online at: www.campcorral.org

Camp Corral is committed to providing a world-class camping experience for our campers. Each host camp is a little different, but all provide non-stop fun and awesome activities in scenic outdoors areas that span from California to Florida. Camp Corral campers learn new skills, build character and make new friends and memories that will last a lifetime!

Any child from a military family is eligible to apply, although acceptance priority is given to children of wounded, disabled, or fallen military Service members. Additional details can be found on the application website.

Register at www.campcorral.org

Since October 2001, the world in which American military children grow up has been changed dramatically by unprecedented levels of deployment and the increased reliance on Reserve and Guard members. To date, a total of over 2.1 million American men and women in uniform have deployed and of those Service members, approximately 44 percent are parents.

Camp Corral, a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, non-profit corporation, is a free, one-of-a-kind summer camp for children of wounded, disabled or fallen military service members. Since its founding, Camp Corral has grown to 20 camps in 16 states, and served over 4,000 children. Although any child from a military family is eligible, registration priority is given to children of wounded, disabled or fallen military service members.



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Camp Erin can help



Camp Erin is named in memory of the Moyer's friend, Erin Metcalf, a remarkable young woman who died of cancer at the age of 17. Erin had a compassionate heart and often expressed concern for how children would cope after the death of a loved one.

Karen and Jamie honored Erin's memory and caring spirit by establishing the first Camp Erin in Everett, Washington in 2002. Camp Erin has grown to become the largest network of bereavement camps in the country, including a camp in every Major League Baseball city.

The Moyer Foundation is a public 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2000 by World Series Champion pitcher, Jamie Moyer and his wife, Karen. The mission of The Moyer Foundation is to provide comfort, hope and healing to children affected by loss and family addiction. In addition to community-funded grants, the Foundation created and funds two signature initiatives— Camp Erin® and Camp Mariposa®—a free, first-of-its-kind program for children ages nine through 12 who are impacted by addiction in their family.

THE MOYER FOUNDATION
 Seattle
 2425 32nd Avenue W, Suite 200
 Seattle, WA 98199
 (206) 298-1217
 Philadelphia
 One Penn Center
 1617 JFK Blvd, Suite 935
 Philadelphia, PA 19109
 (887) 687-7724
 www.moyerfoundation.org

www.facebook.com/themoyerfoundation
 @moyerfoundation
 Camp Erin Parents Blog
 www.camperinparents.com
 National Bereavement Resource Guide
 www.moyerfoundation.org/nbrg

NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION
 PROUD SPONSOR OF CAMP ERIN



Where children learn to grieve & heal

The MOYER Foundation
 Giving Hope to Children Experiencing Grief and Family Addiction



CAMP DATES

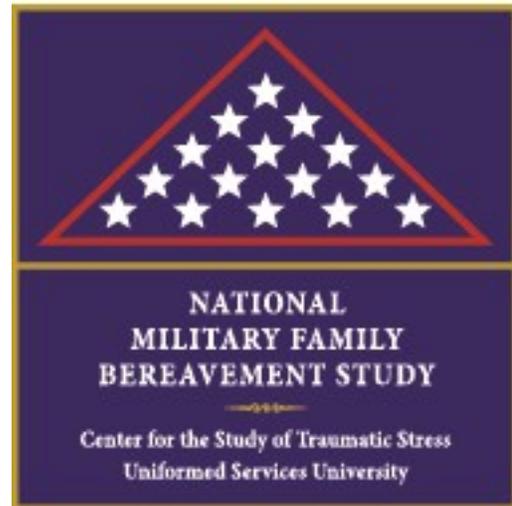
6/9 - 6/13	Camp Erin St. Louis (teens)	Annie's Hope	Linda Grana	lindag.annieshope@gmail.com	(314) 965-5015
October					
10/10-10/12	Camp Erin Chicago	Adventist St. Thomas Hospice	Heather Kochen	Heather.Kochen@AHSS.ORG	(630) 856-6985
10/17-10/19	Camp Erin Tucson/Phoenix	Tu Nidito Children and Family Services	Karla Velazquez	karla@tunidito.org	(520) 322-9155

www.camperin.org



Michelle's Thoughts

Despite all the snow and cold, spring is coming. After the death of a love one, it can be a difficult time. Yet hope is there. Read more ... <http://connect.legacy.com/profiles/blogs/long-winter-gives-way-to-bright-spring>



Michelle is a field researcher for the National Military Bereavement Study, interviewing families and collecting information that will help strengthen the resources and support those surviving the death of an active duty service member will receive. You are eligible for the study if:

- Your loved one died by any circumstance of death while on active duty status since September 11, 2001, in any branch of the US Military (Active, Guard, and Reserve Components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard).
- You are the parent (adoptive, biological, custodial)/stepparent; spouse/ex-spouse/adult partner; minor/adult child; biological/step-sibling of the active duty service member who died.

To read more about study and participate in it, go to:
www.militarysurvivorstudy.org.



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Financial Assistance for Survivors



The United States has become the leader in the world in the war on terrorism. Unfortunately, the battle against terrorism doesn't come without the sacrifice of the lives of some of our military men and women. For this reason, those associated with Armed Forces Children's Education Fund (AFCEF) feel it is our moral obligation to provide some form of assistance to the families left behind. This education fund for the children of those fallen heroes is just a small way for Americans to say "thank you" for the ultimate sacrifice made in the name of freedom. The ARMED FORCES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND, Inc. (AFCEF) was established on May 1, 2003, the first day of National Military Appreciation Month.

<http://www.afcef.org/>



The Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund honors the bravery and dedication exhibited by Americans in our Armed Forces who have sacrificed life or limb defending our country by providing educational scholarships to their children. Thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Guardsmen have been killed defending our great nation and it is our honor to help them achieve the dream of a college education. Freedom Alliance has established a permanent Scholarship Trust Fund to aid the children of these brave Americans, so that we will be able to help the children of American heroes when it is their turn to attend college. Through the generosity of so many patriotic Americans, the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships for thousands of young Americans, reminding them that their parents' sacrifice will never be forgotten by a grateful nation.

Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund: www.freedomalliance.org/scholarship.htm



<http://www.ngef.org/get-involved/apply-for-the-drs-guardian-scholarship/>



Since September 11, 2001, nearly 800 Guardsmen have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of the Global War on Terrorism. These heroes left behind more than 1,000 children. Established in 2011 and underwritten by DRS Technologies, Inc., the DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund provides college scholarships to the children of National Guardsmen who have been lost in service to our nation since 9/11. Over the past three years, NGEF has awarded 21 scholarships to students through the DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund. The deadline for applications each year is June 30th.

This year's application is available [here](#) and due by June 30, 2014.



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Fallen Warrior Bears DBA "AZ Hearts for Heroes" In Honor of Those Who Have Fallen

Among life's many events is the tragic loss of a loved one in military or public service.

In an effort to help bring some comfort to the survivors, we have made it our mission to donate specially made memory bears, handmade from the clothing items of the fallen warrior and presented to the children or family member as a special life-long memento.

For more information on how to get your own bear contact your SOS Coordinator for more details.

<http://azheartsforheroes.org/>



SOS Financial Counseling Services **“MARK MY WORDS”**

Mark Dunlop
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
573) 596-0153

Great News! New Interactive Online Survivor Benefit Reports

For several years now, survivor benefits reports have been provided to some surviving family members of service members who die on active duty. These reports illustrate benefits for everyone in the household from the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration.

Initial reports are posted on a secure website and are accessible to family members for 6 months from the date of the service member's death. As part of the phased rollout, the new interactive online survivor benefits report will be available for surviving spouses (and others who are eligible for a DS logon premium account), of all service members who have died on active duty; this can then be accessed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

These new reports display not only all current and estimated future benefits but also allow survivors to input "what if" type changes to family members' education status and plans, disability status and marital status. This information is invaluable for a family's financial planning.

To access these new reports, you will need to have a new DS logon premium account and password. If you are eligible for a DS logon premium account but do not yet have a DS logon premium account, you can visit the Defense Manpower Data Center's website to create one.

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement>

If assistance is needed with recovering passwords or accessing reports, users should contact the Family Assistance Support Team at 877-827-2471 or by email at osbr@afsc.com. To log in and view personal reports, select the appropriate branch of service below, and then follow the instructions on the site:

MyArmyBenefits : https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Casualty_Operations.html



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DS LOGON PREMIUM ACCOUNT

- » Allows access to personalized information in addition to public areas of government websites.

OSBR

- » Projects the Family's updated, integrated stream of government survivor benefits from VA, Military SBP, and Social Security
- » Personalized benefits information, online, anytime, anywhere
- » Allows "What if" projections
- » Support provided by the Family Assistance Support Team

Questions?

Contact the Family Assistance Support Team (FAST):

877-827-2471

osbr@afsc.com

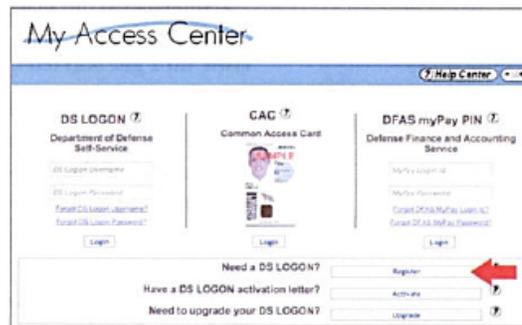
Access Your Interactive Online Survivor Benefits Report (OSBR) Through DS Logon

Surviving spouses and children who have received an initial OSBR will now have access to an annually updated, personalized, OSBR through use of an online interactive calculator. This calculator will include updated benefit amounts that include the annual cost-of-living increases; other legislative changes on a real-time, personalized basis for each survivor; and provide for benefit amount projections under "what if" scenarios (i.e., What's the effect on my Social Security benefits if I start or stop working?). You will need a DS Logon premium account to access the online OSBR calculator.

Just Follow These Steps to See Your OSBR:

1 Sign Up for DS Logon Premium Account

Go to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement>



2 Provide Your DS Logon ID to Family Assistance Survivor Team

Call: 877-827-2471, or email: osbr@afsc.com

3 Access Your OSBR

Visit Your Service's Website:

- **MyNavyBenefits:** <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/prebuilt/USN/>
- **MyMarineBenefits:** <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/prebuilt/USMC/>
- **MyAirForceBenefits:** <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/prebuilt/USAF/>
- **MyArmyBenefits:** https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Casualty_Operations.html

Create Your DS Logon Premium Account Today!

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement>



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

YOU CAN ALSO ACCESS THESE SITES:

- » **Address Update:**
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/>
- » **Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE):**
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/>
- » **eBenefits:**
<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>
- » **milConnect:**
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>
- » **RAPIDS Self-Service (RSS):**
https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/self_service/
- » **TRICARE Online (TOL):**
<https://www.tricareonline.com/>

Additional websites may be added in the future. Please check the DS Logon Self-Service website for a complete list of websites supporting DS Logon.

What is DS Logon?

DS Logon is a new, secure, self-service logon ID that allows eligible DOD and VA users to access numerous government websites using a single Username and Password. Besides the convenience of needing only one username and password to access all of these sites, DS Logon provides a high level of authentication that goes beyond simply username/passwords used by most websites. This allows government agencies to provide real-time, personalized information to users.

Why do you need it?

By the end of 2013, all DOD and VA websites containing personal information will require access only through DS LOGON accounts.

Who can register?

Currently, the following groups of people can obtain a DS Logon:

- Service Members (*Active Duty, Guard/Reservists, Retirees*)
- Veterans
- Spouses (*including Surviving Spouses*)
- Eligible Family Members (*18 and over*)

How do I get started?

Visit the "DS Logon – My Access Center," <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess/>. You will receive a dialogue box (pictured right) the first time you access the site. Click on the "My Access Center Homepage" button. Then click the "Register" button. You can



establish a DS Logon Basic Account immediately on the site. You will need a DS Logon Premium Account to access your OSBR because it includes personal information. You may obtain a DS Logon Premium Account by completing the "remote proofing process," which involves using a secure ID that users may already have, such as a Social Security Number, and answering three basic, personal questions. In some cases you may have to visit a DEERS/Rapids (ID Card) Office.

What's Next?

Contact the Family Assistance Support Team to provide your DS Logon ID. After you have provided your DS Logon ID to the Family Assistance Support Team they will verify your information or gather missing information to ensure you will be provided the most accurate OSBR. The Family Assistance Support Team will then notify you within two business days by your preferred method of contact (phone or email) when your OSBR is ready for viewing. The Family Assistance Support Team is available to assist you Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (EST).

Congratulations!

Questions?

Contact the Family Assistance Support Team (FAST):

☎ 877-827-2471

✉ osbr@afsc.com



**Financial Protection & FDIC Resources
Dine & Dial Conference call:**

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00pm CENTRAL
(1-626-677-3000 access code 7681905)

The featured topic for April is "Consumer Financial Protection & FDIC Resources" and will be a special opportunity for Survivors to speak to a panel of Survivor Outreach Financial Counselors and other professionals that have worked with Survivors on financial issues and opportunities.

With many positive changes over the last years it will be a great call for Survivors to be able to ask questions and also acquaint themselves on ways to optimize their use of some of financial asset protection options.

This call is free to you unless you have a phone plan that charges for out of area calls.

Please email Mark Dunlop mark.dunlop1@us.army.mil if you want any of the handouts.

Note some of the specifics will be based on Missouri issues as this conference call originates for Missouri but the concepts are non state specific applicable. Survivors and friends are invited to join in on this educational presentation.



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SOS was created to embrace and reassure Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the Army for as long as they desire.

The SOS program continuously strives to provide the highest quality of services to surviving Family members of fallen Warriors. As such, we want to provide you with information on the SOS program in your area. We stand ready to serve you and answer your questions.

Services Available:

- Provide Expertise on State & Federal Survivor benefits
- Arrange for estate and financial advice
- Connect Survivors with mental health support/counseling
- Provide assistance in obtaining military reports
- Provide Survivors with resource referrals for:
 - Peer Support
 - Bereavement Counseling
 - Emergency Financial Services
 - Military Legal Assistance
 - TRICARE
 - Educational Benefits
 - Benefits Assistance

Check us out online at:

<http://www.il.ngb.army.mil/family/survivoroutreach>

Helpful Contacts and Resources:



**ILLINOIS CONNECTIONS FOR
FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN (ICFF)**

**Check out the Illinois Connections for Families of the Fallen (ICFF)
“Community Connections” Resource Guide!**

http://www.nchsd.org/libraryfiles/HDAFiles/Veterans%20Project/11_11_Resourcesguide.pdf



U. S. A R M Y
**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH
SERVICES**



Helping Survivors cope with their loss for as long as they desire.

Visit your local SOS Office.

Christine Cooper, SOS Support Coordinator
Joint Forces Headquarters, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702-2399
(217) 761-3382 office, (217) 316-1191 cell,
email: christine.m.cooper10.ctr@mail.mil

Jim Frazier, SOS Support Coordinator
Woodstock Armory, 1301 Sunset Ridge Road, Woodstock, IL 60098
(708) 646-5933 cell, email: james.l.frazier61.ctr@us.army.mil

Robert Sheahan, SOS Support Coordinator
East St. Louis Armory, 2931 State Street, East St. Louis, IL 62205-2233
(618) 558-4196 cell, email: robert.e.sheahan.ctr@mail.mil

Jack Wilson, SOS Support Coordinator
Building 110, East Avenue, Rock Island, IL
(309) 782-8253 office, email: jack.wilson2@us.army.mil

Dawn Sands, SOS Support Coordinator
10 S 100 South Frontage Road, Darien, IL
(630) 910-3213 ext. 224 office, email dawn.m.sands.ctr@mail.mil