



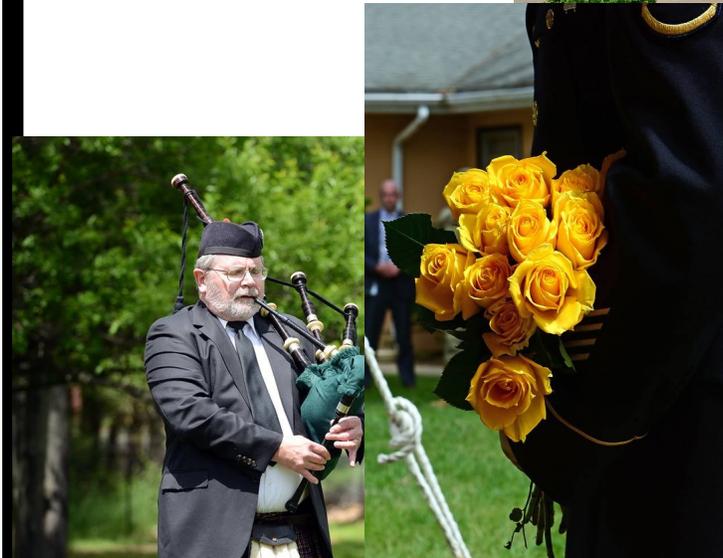
# June 2016

UNITED STATES ARMY

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

## Illinois National Guard Fallen Heroes Memorial - May 14th, 2016

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, Richard J. Hayes Jr., the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, and Soldiers and Airmen of the Illinois National Guard honored Illinois' fallen heroes during the annual Illinois National Guard Fallen Heroes Remembrance Ceremony at the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield, Illinois May 14. The Remembrance Ceremony honors the 33 Army National Guard and one Air National Guard service members that paid the ultimate price since 9/11. The ceremony also recognizes the Gold Star Families of those fallen heroes.



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## Memorials Across America

### Rosemead, CA

The sculpture consists of an iron beam pulled from the rubble of the World Trade Center held up by two stainless steel hands. The hands holding it up are constructed from 2,976 individually crafted stainless steel doves - each representing a victim in the attacks.



### Warrenton, MO

Local Farmers show off their American Pride for their hometown warriors.

### Veterans War Memorial of Texas

As a grateful Nation, we stand in honor of the 4,059 (as of Sept. 2009) men and women of the United States Armed Forces killed in the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan, (2001 to present).



## Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run - June 18th



On June 18th, the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run will be hosting a return to the Middle East Conflicts wall in Marseilles, Illinois. The lineup for the ride is 6:00AM with the ride leaving at approximately 10:00AM from the Grundy County Fairgrounds in Morris, Illinois. There will be a rededication ceremony that begins at 1:00PM. For all that don't ride you can go directly to the Wall.

A \$15.00 donation is appreciated.

After the ceremony there is a Celebration of Freedom in the town of Marseilles. This is a huge event so plan your time of arrival accordingly.

Thank you all for your support to ensure the wall is maintained and enhanced.

## Illinois Survivor Outreach Services Facebook Page to begin weekly tribute to Fallen Heroes

Interested in seeing your Soldier remembered on our Facebook page? Send us a picture; whether it be a military, family, or your favorite, and brief story about your loved one and we will post it to our page! This is a way to help us reach our goal of public awareness of Gold Star Families.

Please send your entries to: [breanna.p.lehman.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:breanna.p.lehman.ctr@mail.mil)

The first time I remember seeing you in Dress Blues was the Daddy-Daughter dance. I couldn't dance like the other girls there, so you picked me up and spun me around in your arms. I was queen of the world that day. The second thing I remember about that uniform is your E6 photo. We still use that one to send to people, 'cause Momma says you were too stubborn to go take any when your promotion came up. I'll never forget that photo though - while you were deployed I taped it in all my school notebooks so that you were always with me. To tell the truth, I was always hoping someone would see & ask about it so I could brag on you and everyone would know that my Daddy was 10 times cooler than anybody else's. The last time I remember seeing you in Dress Blues is the saddest memory I'll ever have. You were lying down, your eternal bed topped with a flag. Your hands topped with white gloves that had a replacement ring over them because Mom couldn't bear to let go of your true wedding band. I saw you three times that way before I would never see you again. I told people that you no longer looked like my Daddy, and what was left there was not. People sometimes looked at me funny when I said "That isn't my Daddy." It's a statement I often have to explain: the man in that bed is not my father. My father is not just a father, but a dad. And I promise you there's one hell of a difference there. So, correction, the man in that bed is not my dad. My dad is the man who always put others first and never thought he deserved a thing when he actually deserved the world. He always believed in his children, he always had faith, and he never ever quit because no matter what, everything can be improved. Even though that body was not my daddy anymore, and each touch was ice cold, I never wanted to let go. I still feel guilty about those releases. Now I sit here tonight, and I'm going to promise myself and you two things:

1. I will not worry about others thoughts; I will only strive to make you proud.
2. I will never give my complete love to anyone who will not attempt to love me the way you did.

So with that, good night best friend. As the song says, you fought the good fight until the Good Lord called you home, and that's one hell of an amen.

- Brooklyn Hortenstine

In loving memory of Luke Hortenstine

## Save the Date! 2nd Illinois SOS Resiliency Retreat



### HELPFUL RESOURCES

**Military One Source:**

[www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/Tools.aspx](http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/Tools.aspx)  
or 800-342-9647

**American Widow Project:**

[americanwidowproject.org/](http://americanwidowproject.org/)

**National Alliance for Grieving Children:**

[www.childrengrieve.org](http://www.childrengrieve.org)

**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:**

[www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

**Gold Star Mother:**

[www.goldstarmoms.com](http://www.goldstarmoms.com)

**Gold Star Dads:**

[www.goldstardads.org](http://www.goldstardads.org)

**Gold Star Wives:**

[www.goldstarwives.org](http://www.goldstarwives.org)

**Survivor Outreach of Illinois Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Survivor-Outreach-Services-of-Illinois-154933114669947/>

**Army Survivor Outreach Services Official Site:**

<http://www.sos.army.mil>

**Gold Star Pins:**

[www.goldstarpins.org](http://www.goldstarpins.org)

**SBP Pay Inquires:** 1-888-332-7411 option 1 or

<http://www.dfas.mil>

**VA Benefits - DIC:** 1-800-827-1000 or

<http://va.gov>

## Education Corner

To pay tribute to military families who have made the ultimate sacrifice, many organizations provide scholarships and grants to children and spouses of service members killed in the line of duty. Below is a small sample of what is available. Please visit <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/> for the full list.

- **Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation** - This foundation provides scholarships to the children of military personnel who died on active duty or died as a result of a service-connected injury or illness.
- **Heroes' Legacy Scholarship** - This scholarship fund, established through the Fisher House Foundation. Is for the children of fallen and disabled service members to honor those who have fallen in battle or who have died or become disabled through their active-duty service since Sept. 11, 2001.
- **American Legion Legacy Scholarship** - This scholarship fund offers scholarships to children of military members who have died while on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.
- **ThanksUSA Scholarship Program** - ThanksUSA offers more than a thousand scholarships for military spouses and children totaling over \$3.5 million.
- **Folds of Honor Foundation** - The Folds of Honor Children's Scholarship Fund broadens the mentorship of children whose parent has been killed or disabled while serving in a combat zone in Iraq or Afghanistan. This program provides support for their future growth through scholarships to subsidize the costs of tuition, approved tutoring, school uniforms, schoolbooks, fees, after school educational programs and approved educational summer camps.
- **Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program** - Surviving spouses are eligible for educational benefits for up to 20 years after the date of the service member's death. Children are normally eligible to use their educational benefits between the ages of 18 and 26. This benefit may be used to pursue an associate, bachelor's or graduate degree, courses leading to certification, technical or vocational school, apprenticeships and various other educational programs. If a child is eligible for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, he or she may be eligible for the VA Dependents Educational Assistance Program. Although the benefits cannot be used at the same time, a child may be eligible for up to 48 months of benefits between the two programs.
- **Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship** - Children or spouses of those who died in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2011, are potentially eligible to receive the Fry Scholarship. Eligible candidates are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100 percent level.

## Upcoming Events

### April

5th: Gold Star Spouse's Day

17th: ICFF Connection at the Museum, Bloomington/Normal Children's Museum

### May

14th: Fallen Heroes Memorial, Camp Lincoln, Springfield

21st: Willow Creek Church Gold Star Family Memorial Breakfast, Barrington

28th: Memorial Day Ceremony/Parade, Chicago

30th: Chicago Cultural Mile Memorial Day Ceremony

30th: Gold Star Family Recognition Day with the Cubs at Wrigley Field.

### June

12th: Gold Star Family River Boat Ride on the Ohio River, Cincinnati, Ohio

18th: Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run, Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial, Marseilles

### August

28th: ICFF Connections at the Zoo, Brookfield Zoo

### September

30-02 Oct: 2nd Annual Illinois SOS Resiliency Retreat, Camp Ondessonk, Ozark, IL

25 Sep: Gold Stars Mother's Day events will be hosted in Springfield NOT Chicago

## Financial Counselors for Illinois

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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

*Never Forgotten...Never Alone*

Provide Expertise on State & Federal Survivor benefit

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

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## Illinois Survivor Outreach Services Coordinators

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